

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIV.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 1906.

No. 16

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Epitome | 265 |
| Leading Articles:— | |
| The Korean Feeling | 266 |
| Seismic Phenomena | 266 |
| The Law of Registered Companies in China | 267 |
| State Insurance Schemes | 267 |
| Trade of French Indo-China | 268 |
| Hongkong Sanitary Board | 269 |
| Supreme Court | 270 |
| Troublesome Indian Soldiers | 271 |
| A Fortunate Escape | 271 |
| Volunteer Camp | 271 |
| Death of Mr. William Cowan | 272 |
| Dock Carpenters on Strike | 272 |
| Royal Hongkong Yacht Club | 272 |
| The "Hankow" Disaster | 272 |
| Canton | 272 |
| Kulangau (Amoy) Municipal Council | 273 |
| Mr. "John Smith" of China | 273 |
| Correspondence | 273 |
| Fire at Shanghai | 273 |
| Shanghai's Importance Recognised | 273 |
| Commercial | 274 |
| Shipping | 276 |

BIRTHS.

On October 4th, at Swatow, the wife of J. C. A. Holz, I. M. Customs, of a daughter.
On October 6th, at Shanghai, the wife of Rev. ALFRED JAMES WALKER, of a daughter.
On October 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. JAMIESON, of Shanghai, a daughter.
On October 8th, at Shanghai, the wife of H. R. H. THOMAS, of a daughter.
On October 9th, at Stuttgart, the wife of Lieut. Commander SECRETAN of H.M.S. *Teal*, of a daughter.
On October 15th, the wife of ELIOT BUXTON-FORMAN, of a daughter. [By telegram from London.]
At Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. BAXTER, a son.

MARRIAGES.

On October 6th, at Shanghai, MICHAEL JAMES TIMMONS of Liverpool, to ELIZABETH HADLEY of Shanghai.
On September 11th, at Anderston Parish Church, Glasgow, EDWIN RICHARD HALLIFAX, of the Hongkong Civil Service, to EVELINE WILSON, of Glasgow.

DEATHS.

On October 6th, at Shanghai, ANDREW MILLER, late Chief Engineer C.M.S.N. Co., aged 54 years.
On October 7th, at Shanghai, WILLIAM COWAN, of H.B.M. Office of Works, aged 51 years.
On October 7th, at Shanghai, JAMES EDWARD BIRTLES, of Liverpool, aged 28 years.
On October 8th, at Hankow, the wife of H. E. GIBSON, of tetanus.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of September 21st arrived, per the ss. *Delta*, on Thursday, the 18th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The attempt made by the tug *Rorbert Cooke* to tow the ss. *Kinsan* from the shore of Castle Peak was unsuccessful.

Tientsin began to enjoy the privileges of the postal system on October 1st, and is once more in possession of a British Post office.

St. Andrew's Anglican church at Kowloon has been added to the list of places licensed for the solemnization of marriages in the Colony.

Arising out of the strike of Sikh police at Shanghai on September 29th, a new King's Regulation enables the authorities to immediately enforce discipline in similar circumstances.

A Geographical Society is to be established in Peking to which all military officers and civil officials must belong so that they may study the geography as well as the population and customs of other countries.

The ss. *Inaba Maru* which arrived in port on Oct. 18th brought seven recruits for the local police. It is stated that the "men of the old brigade" extended their sympathy and informed the newcomers of the high price of the dollar.

A message from Moji states that the losses of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in the recent typhoon at Hongkong total about ¥130,000. The whole of the company's lighters and steam-launches were lost, and ten lighters are had to be forwarded to Hongkong from Moji.

A native who was caught in the act of cutting three gold bangles off a woman's wrist while she slept, at a house in Yu Fu Lane, West Point, on Monday night, was on Oct. 16th sentenced by Mr. Gompertz to six weeks' hard labour, six hours' stocks and ten strokes of the birch.

According to the "Asahi," the project for the establishment by the Mitsui Bishi Kaisha of a large dockyard at Wada Point is again taking shape. The Kaisha, it is said, contemplates the construction of a dockyard twice the size of that belonging to the Kawasaki Company.

The Singapore riflemen have scored 909, and Penang 821, in the Interport Rifle shooting match. Shanghai is, therefore, the winner with 936. Singapore second, Hongkong third (891) and Penang fourth. Hongkong can still claim ten wins to Singapore's four and Shanghai's three.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. Edward Jones, First Boarding Officer, to act as Harbour Master, Emigration and Customs Officer, Registrar of Shipping, Superintendent of the Gunpowder Depot, Collector of Light Dues and Superintendent of Imports and Exports, with effect on and from the 3rd instant.

The rise of the dollar exchange to 2s 3.1-16d. scarcely requires special note, since every inhabitant of adult age probably knew all about it by tiffin time. Greatly as it pleases those who are paid in local currency, it is otherwise regarded by the tradesmen of the Colony, who state that they have never experienced such bad times as they have lately done. Shopping bills are apparently being everywhere curtailed in order that larger amounts may be remitted home as savings.

Mr. H. F. King, Vice-Consul at H. B. M. Consulate-General, Tientsin, has been promoted to be Consul at Wuchou and was to leave Tientsin on October 10th.

The Registrar of Companies notifies that at the expiration of three months, unless cause is shown to the contrary, the following companies will be struck off the register, and will be dissolved:—The Anglo-Japanese Locomotive and Engineering Co., Ltd., The Union Brewery Co., Ltd., The China Carrying Co., Ltd., The Eastern Flour and Provision Co., Ltd., and The Wang Yip Timber Co., Ltd.

The cobwebs dust and germs which have thickened on the walls of the Man Min Temple in Hollywood Road during the last 40 years have at last been washed away. Sanitary Inspectors have not entered this temple in the past as it was thought they would interfere with the Joss, but on October 13th Inspector Gidley with a gang of coolies passed the hallowed portals and thoroughly washed the walls with chloride of lime.

A young Chinawoman named Leung Yuen, who lived at 2 Western Street, committed suicide on Oct. 17th by taking an overdose of poison. Jealousy was the motive of her rash act. The concubine of a young tally man, she found that he was dissatisfied with her and when he announced on Saturday that he was going to a restaurant she divined that he intended procuring another feminine companion. In her disappointment she went to Canton but returned in a day or two. Then he beat her, and after he left the house she took her life as indicated.

Another European has now lost faith for ever in the Chinese "boy." The gentleman referred to last week went to the detective office and set the Hongkong sleuth hounds in search of the "boy" he was once wont to praise, and who had served him for some years. It appears that the servant in his master's absence was left in charge of the home. One evening, when the gentleman returned from work, his boy was not there, and all the doors were locked. After waiting for the return of the truant something over an hour he forced an entrance, and when he went into the dining room found two pawntickets on the table. The boy had pawned his master's dress suit and two ordinary suits but was considerate enough to leave him the tickets to redeem his clothing. The rascal has not yet been traced.

The progress and general increase in the electrical industry of Japan has largely encouraged the import of machinery in connection therewith, which steadily continues to increase. It is stated that the Mitsui Bishi Company has decided to establish a large factory for the manufacture of electrical machinery and carry on the additional business of manufacturing turbines and electric motors and generators, &c., an experimental factory being already nearly completed at Nagasaki. The factory is now fully occupied with the manufacture of electrical appliances for the company's mines, and cannot therefore accept orders from outsiders at present. The factory is now busily engaged in the manufacture of electric motors, &c., for the exhibition which is to be held in Tokyo next spring, and if the results prove satisfactory the firm will make arrangements to receive orders from the general public on a large scale.

THE KOREAN FEELING.

(Daily Press, October 15th.)

With regard to Japan's treatment of Korea as an absolute colony, it is convenient for Great Britain to dream of a benevolent supervision of Korea's wayward administration to her own ultimate good, and the future benefit of her inhabitants. A correspondent just returned from Korea believes that Japan aims at the eventual supersession not only of Korean government by Japanese, but the substitution of a Japanese population for the present native Korean. The present population of Korea at the lowest computation, amounts to eight millions or about 175 to the square mile, so that the task undertaken by Japan, if it is undertaken, is of no light magnitude. If Korea were in a stage of civilization immeasurably lower than Japan's the undertaking would be at least a serious one, if not dangerous; the task is rendered more serious and more dangerous that as a race the Koreans are but little behind their neighbours in mental ability, and individually very much their superiors in physical development. Their notorious *morale*, however, has caused the Japanese to commence their task by despising their subject, a bad beginning. Contempt is indeed paramount in the treatment being at the moment meted out to the inhabitants wherever their protectors have effected a settlement, however small, and the not unnatural consequence of this is that an old-standing racial hatred is being universally augmented from one end of the country to another. Without any show of conciliation, the feeling is being repressed by the fear engendered by an overgrown military occupancy, while an over officious police system is rapidly being extended throughout the country; which, while it is insufficient to control, is quite sufficient to create of itself dissatisfaction and alarm. In addition to the spread of unpleasant feeling amongst the native population, many foreign residents are also loud in expressing their feeling of disgust at the lengths to which interference is being carried, and this feeling is bound to react on the Koreans themselves. Situated as Japan is in Korea, it would seem a matter of consideration to her that she should be able to depend on a large section of the people to lend her friendly assistance in case of a renewal of her strife with Russia, who is looking on the general feeling of estrangement prevailing with anything but unfavourable eyes. Apparently the Japanese expect to manage as before, "off their own bat." It is quite true that Russia has been making a pretence of opening up friendly relations; but Russian advances of this nature, with the wounds to her self respect still unhealed, are of themselves only too likely to prove in the end an additional embarrassment. The cavalier-like manner in which Japan has intruded herself into the Palace at Seoul is of no good augury: nominally under the pretext of maintaining order and upholding the "dignity and safety" of the unfortunate EMPEROR, no persons suspected by the Japanese authorities are permitted access to the Palace, and the gates and approaches are guarded by Japanese troops and police. A Japanese official has been appointed, nominally as "advisor" to the Korean police; really his action has been to supersede entirely the native force, and the streets and walls of the capital are patrolled night and day by Japanese policemen. Practically Korean officialdom is extinct in all the ports, and the system is being gradually extended through the country, so that the native authorities are not permitted to register a

sale of property in any locality where lives a Japanese official without the consent and official seal of the latter being affixed to the land deeds. Practically, whenever the land in question is required by Japanese this leads to its confiscation in everything but name, the native being forced to give up his property in return for a consideration. By foreigners, the purchase of eligible sites for business purposes has, we are informed, become a matter of practical impossibility. The immediate consequence is curious. Owing to the impossibility of purchasing land the price of that already acquired has gone up to famine prices, and the few foreign residents who in the early days had invested in land, are now reaping huge profits out of their ventures. Now, looking at the position from an outside and perfectly unbiased point of view, all this must be considered very unsatisfactory; nor is the situation without danger politically. It must be a difficult task to hold down a whole race for any continuous term of years, even when the population is so unprepared for resistance, and so averse from aggressive measures as is that of Korea. Yet the Japanese are not troubled with doubts of their own sufficiency. In such a condition something, it may be a mere spark, is sure to bring out the latent spirit of the populace, and Korea is just now in such a state of unrest that at any moment the spark may give rise to a general conflagration. A mob once excited to action does not long have any respect for persons, and in such a case the innocent are as likely to suffer as the guilty. The Koreans are long-suffering; but they seem to find it harder to bear the Japanese contempt than any of their former troubles. Though Korea has never been able to offer any continuous opposition to her more warlike and ambitious neighbours at both sides, the patience of the people has well nigh been exhausted. Even the despised Russian peasant is beginning to show that he is capable of resistance when the burden is made too heavy to bear, and the Japanese would act more wisely did they take measures to gain the respect of the people whom they would supersede. They would only be acting in accordance with the expressed wishes of Tokyo were they to do so.

SEISMIC PHENOMENA.

(Daily Press, October 16th.)

Last May we drew attention to the very remarkable series of earthquake shocks, which beginning at Esmeraldas on the Pacific coast of Columbia close to the Equator, culminated on April 18th in the destructive earthquake that rendered San Francisco a heap of ruins. It is one of the features of these seismic phenomena that they are distinctly periodic, usually reaching a maximum during the winter season in our northern hemisphere, and fading to a minimum when the earth is at its aphelion. Of course exceptions occur, and it is also noticeable that many, if not most of the worst of these disturbances recorded in history, have happened during the summer months; but in earthquakes as in meteorological phenomena it is wise to recall the doggerel warning:—"Long threatened long last—Short notice soon past". In most cases these summer shakings have been preceded by a long series of preliminary quiverings; the first disturbance which has set the rest going in nearly every case being traceable to the period when the earth was in perihelion. As we showed in our reference to the San Francisco disaster, the indication of the disturbed condition of what we may call the "Pacific Girdle" was given on the 31st January at the equatorial

crossing of the two lines, where our present Equator intersects both the Himalayan and the Pacific Girdles. Seismology has made some little progress since that disaster, as we shall see by a reference to the "Illustrated London News" of the 25th August last, where the two girdles to which we drew attention in our previous article are plainly drawn out, but curiously enough without any appreciation of their real importance as great circles. To this latter we shall refer lower down.

Meanwhile it is interesting to follow the reports of the Valparaiso shock. It would seem that two days before, the observatory at Santiago announced that some tremblings had occurred to the instruments there, showing that the state of unrest had not altogether terminated. It is, of course in our present stage of knowledge absolutely impossible to predict an earthquake as we would predict a cyclone; we have, for instance, no means of judging whether the tremor is a precursor or the sequela of a disturbance, nor whether it is not only the effect of a slight local adjustment of subterranean conditions. Pretended earthquake prognostications except in the most general terms, must without present knowledge, be looked upon as worse than empiric, in most cases the individual making them not having experience enough of the relation of cause and effect to justify his even laying claim to the title of empiric. The day of the earthquake had been fine, in fact like any ordinary day at the season, and the shock came without warning. The written accounts state that the shock took place at about eight o'clock, but here there is a curious, apparent at least, discrepancy. In China, at Siccawei, in England, at Professor Milne's private observatory, and at Washington the commencement of the shock was noted and calculating back the distance travelled by the seismic wave, the first shock must have occurred about 6.46 p.m. on the 16th August. The records are in curious agreement, and make the wave to have travelled at the rate of 4 miles per second, or very nearly 6½ kilometres. Shanghai is situated approximately at the antipodes of Valparaiso, and the commencement of the vibrations was recorded at 7.19 p.m. Valparaiso time, (8h. 19m. a.m. China Coast time); the length of the chord, here passing near the earth's centre is approximately 7,900 miles, and the time would be within a few seconds of 33 minutes, giving 6.46 p.m. as the approximate time of the actual shock. In south England the length of chord is approximately 6,450 miles and the time nearly 27 minutes, the Valparaiso time is given as 7.15 p.m. so the calculated time of commencement would be 6.48 p.m. At Washington the chord is approximately 4,850 miles, and the time of passage of the vibrations a little over 20 minutes. The time (Chile) recorded was 7.05 p.m. so the reduced time of actual occurrence would be 6.44 p.m. These are only the roughest of calculations, and given without knowledge of the exact time noted at Valparaiso itself, but the coincidence is at least curious.

Nor are the sequelae of this Valparaiso earthquake any less instructive than those of the early part of the year. In Chile itself the earth was in a practically continuous stage of vibration till the 20th August, and during this period the vibrations were distinctly felt in the Formosa Channel. The Pacific Girdle spoken of above actually fringes the west coast of Formosa, and we find on the 19th (18th in Chile), off the coast of Fukien, E. long. 118.14, the Kwangse steamer reporting a

violent shock as having a little past six in the afternoon struck the ship. On the 20th an earthquake was reported at Lima on the same line as Valparaiso but 21 degrees of latitude further north. On the 29th southern Peru was shaken, while on the 2nd September San Juan, (? Guatemala, 17½ N. and also on the same line) also reported an earthquake. The early part of September was likewise marked by disturbances on this girdle, Valparaiso being again shaken on the 2nd, and on the 24th Siccawei again reported a shock. Nor was the Himalaya girdle altogether omitted, for on August 19th we find seismic disturbances making themselves felt at the unfortunate island of Martinique, while in south Italy we again hear of shocks in the first week of September. The latter portion of the year is, however, not so prolific in seismic disturbances as the first half; and more especially is this the case when they have rather to be classed as reflected, the main source of the earthquakes of the year having unquestionably to be placed in the Pacific girdle. Nearly one half of this girdle really is submarine, and even here it includes several well known groups of volcanic islands. It is interesting notwithstanding to trace its general course. Leaving the South American coast somewhat about the mouth of the great La Plata, it passes close to South Georgia and the Sandwich group in the south Atlantic; thence by Bouvet I. it proceeds to Crozet, Kerguelen, and skirts the Amsterdam group, all of which are known to be volcanic. The next land it meets is Cocos, and from that it proceeds to Sumatra, where in the midst of volcanoes it crosses the Equator. None of these lands are inhabited, and are practically unexplored. The seas are moreover since trade has made a highway of the Red Sea, seldom visited by ships; and the southern part of the Indian Ocean is of late years almost deserted. Recent surveys have shown that much of the great circle line is marked by a series of shallow soundings, and that here as above water it marks a decided ridge. Unless an earthquake of sufficient intensity occur to be caught on the very distant seismographic instruments already existing in these southern regions, it is very unlikely that any other notice will be had of earthquakes or eruptions in these deserted regions; so that their not having been recorded is no evidence of their non-recurrence. Even in so often traversed a sea as that between Hongkong and Cebu, a serious volcanic disturbance may take place without leaving its record at the neighboring observatories. In February last the S.S. Lothian after her arrival at New York, reported that on her voyage she in this locality passed through fifty miles of boiling water, and that during the strange passage the ship shook from stem to stern, "as if she had an ague". This, we may remark, was on this self-same Pacific Girdle. Not very long ago a similar experience was noticed in the neighbourhood of the Aleutians in the extreme northerly extension of the great circle.

Returning to Professor Milne's chart in the "Illustrated London News", we may notice that the line marked as "Libby's Circle", while it is correct as far as it passes through the land to the north of the Equator, fails in its southern section beneath the South Pacific. To account for earthquakes in the Tonga archipelago, it makes the line descend only to 20 S.L. The line should, of course, have descended to about 43 S.L. and this would have brought it through New Zealand, as well as Queensland, which Professor Milne himself marks as a region subject to disturbance. One or two other

great circle lines of disturbance appear to exist in part, but these are of much more ancient geologic date, and have not been much in evidence in recent disturbances.

THE LAW OF REGISTERED COMPANIES IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, October 17th.)

WHEN we quoted two or three days ago from our contemporaries some rather strong strictures on the alleged negligence of the Hongkong Government to enforce its own laws relating to public companies, we did not expect that the Government would so speedily repudiate the charge by a prosecution of the Shanghai Life Insurance Company. The matter we reproduced had been "standing in type" for some time, as often happens when there is pressure on a newspaper's space. Our contemporaries referred to various stipulations of the Constitution and Incorporation of Companies Ordinance, and explained how any slackness in enforcing their observance might conduce to fraud on the part of persons desiring to defraud the public. It is obvious that the complaint, even if based on grounds merely general and academic, is a just one, provided such slackness be proved to exist. We are advised, however, that the colonial Government is alive to its responsibilities, and we shall presently mention a case which goes to support this. No honest company or promoter of companies can object to the most rigorous interpretation of the requirements of the Ordinance, and in cases where only technical breaches are committed, through carelessness or even inadvertence, it is desirable that no mercy should be shown. To pay for mistakes is partly an excellent insurance against having to pay for things more serious. The requirement that every limited company shall keep a register of shareholders, open to inspection by persons interested, is one of the most important, and we believe occasions are not unheard of where in Hongkong and Shanghai this precaution has been of particular service to innocent investors.

Another requirement specially mentioned is that "every Insurance Company, etc., shall, before it commences business, and on the first Monday in February and the first Monday in August of every year, make a statement of its business, etc.". The allegation was made at Hankow that in such matters the Government has not appointed an efficient staff to see that the Ordinance is carried out, to enforce the penalties, and to "give good publicity to the outports that such has been done". We regret that owing to a misunderstanding we have allowed the Government to rest under this imputation two or three days longer than we should have done; and we refer to the matter here with the object of according the "good publicity" desired by the outports.

Hankow and other outports may take what follows, we think, as evidence that the Government is not neglecting the responsibilities it has assumed. On Thursday, the 11th instant, Mr. GOMPERTZ had before him a case in which the Registrar of Companies proceeded against the Shanghai Life Insurance Company for neglecting to file a statement as required under Form D, Section 103, of the Companies Ordinance. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. F. B. L. BOWLEY, Crown Solicitor, and the Company was legally represented by Mr. M. J. D. STEPHENS. The defendants' advocate, according to our reporter's account of the proceedings, admitted the neglect, and pleaded that it

was quite unintentional. "They intended to comply with the law", Mr. STEPHENS said, "and were at the present moment using their best endeavours to obtain the requisite information from Shanghai. His clients were American subjects, and were not aware that this statement was necessary, their solicitor in Shanghai not having advised them at the time of the formation of the company, which had been registered only a little over a year".

The Crown Solicitor pointed out that the defendants were liable under the Ordinance to a penalty of \$550, but as they were taking steps to rectify the matter, he did not press for a heavy fine. If the law were not complied with as soon as possible, a further summons could be taken out. In view of this lenient attitude of the prosecution, His Worship considered that a fine of \$25 would meet the justice of the case, and he so decided.

Our Hankow contemporary states that at present it knows that many registered companies have gone on working for years without giving any returns of their doings to the Registrar. We feel sure that there is some mistake as to that, as this prosecution of the Shanghai Life Insurance Company is by no means the first demonstration of the Registrar's vigilance. We hope that the prominence we have here given to his latest prosecution will help to restore that confidence which registration at Hongkong was intended to encourage. Wherever a shareholder has cause to suspect that all is not as it should be, we fancy that any suggestion would receive adequate and prompt official attention.

STATE INSURANCE SCHEMES.

(Daily Press, October 18th.)

Although nothing momentous is likely to happen as a result of it, a recent article in the *Financial Review of Reviews* seems to be giving rise to a good deal of discussion. Suggestions for state-owned and state-managed that are by no means rare, and the neighbouring country of Japan is taking a leading part in such experiments, with results which have as yet scarcely had time to show themselves. Some say the state enterprises are doing well; others aver the contrary. For a long time the British Post Office was the pet object lesson of state socialists, but they are probably now a little tired of it. There is something more fascinating about the suggestion in the article cited above, which is nothing more or less than that all insurance companies should be merged under state management. Here also Japan has practically gone further than any other country, although it has as yet refrained from putting insurance on a footing with tobacco and railways. The author of the latest suggestion has many arguments for it, but his trump card is undoubtedly the addition of about twelve millions to the national revenue. He is one of those who share the mild mania of desiring to extinguish the National Debt, but if we do not all agree with him, he is prepared to allow us to apply insurance profits in other ways, one bait held out being a possible substantial reduction of the income tax. First of all he dwells on the amazing profitableness of insurance, and quotes an eminent actuarial authority to the effect that nothing in the commercial world equals or even approaches the security of a well-established insurance office. According to the last annual return of Life Assurance business, issued by Government, there was a return of over a million on a capital outlay of about fourteen millions, say something over seven per cent. "The figure is a very

striking one, and it appears the more significant when we remember that all companies, good, bad, and indifferent, which come within the provisions of Section 10 of 'The Life Assurance Companies Acts, 1870,' are included in the return. It is probable that no other interest or industry in the country could show collectively such a handsome yield on its capital." The writer quoted claims that under Government management this return would be greatly increased, as it has been made under the existing competitive system in spite of the extremely costly system of working involved. He figures roughly that nearly a quarter of the total premium income of the Life Insurance Companies is spent on managerial and office expenses, and on commission. In the case of Fire Offices, he puts the proportion still larger. The best feature of British companies, so far as the public takes interest in the matter, has always appeared to be their very substantial reserves, but the writer considers them overgrown. He would reduce them one half. He suggests that they spell high rates as well as security, and he would allow Government a less reserve, and expect it to insure at lower rates. This, we suppose, will be the weak place in his armour, if the experts consider him worth fighting. He is interesting when giving his opinion of the present system, as the following extract from a summary of his essay may show. "The companies," he declares, "work on a basis theoretically sound, but in practice fallacious. The mortality tables are out of date. As a rule they go back to 1872, since which year sanitary science has made such strides that the death-rate has been materially reduced and the average duration of life prolonged. The calculations of the companies, moreover, are not based on the selected lives with which they usually deal, but on those of the general population, including, of course, the notoriously short-lived. Consequently, they are constantly paying enormously less in death-claims than they expected, or might have expected. Twenty years ago one of the largest companies testified to its deaths one year being 26 per cent below the number expected. Against the average duration of a policy in a British company is only five years, and lapsed policies outnumber those on which claims are paid by two to one. Yet companies still calculate on the assumption that every policy will mature." The "epidemic" argument is used to justify these boards; but the writer does not think it does justify them nowadays. He seems to overlook the obvious reflection that we can never know when surprises are in store for the insurance world. The current year is an example, with San Francisco, Valparaiso, and our own Hongkong trouble; and no one can promise that there will never again be a vast epidemic or series of epidemics. On his argument that the proposal is not a revolutionary one, or altogether without precedent, he is on safer ground, but we take it in view of recent re-action and disclosures that his citations of gas, electricity, telephones, etc., are none too happy. New Zealand appears to have actually adopted his suggestion before he made it, but that enterprising Colony is the despair of all argumentative people. It seems capable of demonstrating anything. Germany and Japan are expected to follow New Zealand's example, however, and this writer would like to see Great Britain in the van, substituting one well-equipped central office for the numerous headquarters existing now, and economising on

administration. Even allowing seven per cent as expenses of State insurance, he calculates a saving of more than thirteen millions sterling. The way to effect the change would be easy, in his opinion. Calculating on a thirty years' purchase of the net earnings of the present system (but arbitrators would scarcely be as ready with their decision as he) the price of all the Life companies would be about thirty and a half millions sterling, and of the Fire companies another twenty millions. He prefers to leave the treatment of mutual offices, and of accumulated profits and reserves, to the tribunal of arbitration. He is vague as to compensation for the enormous army of employees, suggesting that one million per annum "for a series of years" would be a safe estimate. So it would, in one way, but meanwhile the remendous savings might have to be waited for till the end of that series of years. Many of the officials would be employed by the State Insurance Co., Unlimited, so he ventures to quote ten millions as the utmost amount required for compensation, or about sixty and a half millions as the total cost of expropriation. As we remarked, we do not expect that any government party will care to tackle the question seriously at present; but it certainly offers a fine ground for debate.

TRADE OF FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

(Daily Press, 18th October.)

The trade of French Indo-China in 1905 is the subject of one of the more interesting of the large number of blue books that usually reach us about this time. Mr. Consul CARLISLE is very thorough in his methods, which cannot be said for all his consular contemporaries, but he has had the advantage of approaching it as a new task. This happens to be the first report by a Consul for Indo-China, and there were no data available for making the comparisons that are usually so useful in these reports. Taking exchange at twenty-five francs to the sovereign, Mr. CARLISLE tells us that the total value of Indo-China's foreign trade last year was registered by the Customs as £17,614,932, of which, excluding treasures, exports represented £6,750,306, and imports £10,182,411. It is necessary, in order to get a correct idea of the importance of Indo-China's trade, to further deduct £1,224,645 as the value of goods merely passing through, which leaves us with a total of about sixteen and a half millions sterling. Even then an important growth is observable, the net figure for 1904 being £15,450,728, or about six per cent less. Exports look less, but that is because the export of rice in 1904 was abnormal. The increased imports are attributed to the much greater prosperity of the people. Of the exports, including treasure, quite £4,880,370 worth were indigenous products, and it is interesting to note that Hongkong took the largest share, £1,766,922, the amount destined to France or French colonies being £1,290,516. China and Japan took £846,536 worth. Re-exports are, of course, excluded, otherwise these figures would be larger still. It is stated that the great bulk of re-exports come to Hongkong, China, and Japan. The chief export (more than half) is always rice, of which last year the quantity sent out was given by the Customs as 625,750 tons, most of it grown in the country. Direct exports to the United Kingdom and Germany consisted of fifteen thousand tons of rice flour and dust. The tin figuring with next importance in the list of exports is really a re-export, coming originally from

Southern Yunnan, and generally consigned to Hongkong. During 1905 there thus came 4,578 tons, valued at £553,915, including a small contribution of native ore. Fish products were valued at £534,828, Singapore and Hongkong being the chief consumers. We note further that the Colony also manufactured £20,446 worth of cotton yarn for Yunnan, besides re-exporting £401,000 worth of Indian yarn that had passed through Hongkong dealers' hands. Of the large coal export, 222,651 tons, 199,888 tons were mined in the country. For the cultivation of raw cotton, now being encouraged with some show of success, there is a scarcity of labour. At present Cambodian cotton costs from ten to twenty per cent more than Indian and is mainly bought for Japan, by Hongkong. It is longer stapled and better quality, but not so good as American. The Tonkin mills prefer to buy the cheaper Indian cotton. Rubber, as everywhere just now, is receiving special attention, Indo-China producing last year 367½ tons worth £97,150. At present the wasteful methods of savage collectors are still followed, but the Government is trying to introduce the proper way. These, only a few selections from the long list of valuable productions, help to show the wonderful resources of the country. We may now turn to the way in which the natural wealth is expended. Of imports from neighbouring countries, which neither France nor any other western nation can supply, may be noted £271,000 worth of opium, £137,600 worth of fruits and seed from China, £52,400 worth of meat, hides, raw silk, birds'-nests, &c., from Hongkong, China, and Siam, £13,700 worth of live sheep and pigs from China, besides betelnut, fresh vegetables, and other luxuries. China also sends medicines, pottery, paper, shoes, fireworks, and so on. Of the demand in which European countries may take interest, France or her colonies supplies 44.19 per cent, thanks to a protectionist tariff. In spite of the severe import duties levied on foreign goods other than French, Hongkong gets in £2,479,818 worth, and the United Kingdom (which with India appears to contribute most largely to Hongkong's quota) £141,382 worth, or say fully 25 per cent of British imports. Concerning the much talked of railway to Yunnan, and the cotton yarn trade, Mr. CARLISLE says the Tonkin mills are hoping to increase their share, but that freight on their Indian raw cotton and the high price of labour handicap them. Indian yarn following the usual route to Yunnan, from Hongkong to Haiphong, must pay for manipulation and warehouse charges, as well as French transit dues amounting to about five per cent of the value. Hongkong Chinese take tin generally in exchange for their yarn, and Yunnan's purchases are largely paid for in opium. The French authorities are gradually substituting Yunnan opium for the Indian drug, and making a good thing out of the monopoly. Dozens of other interesting facts, such as that the Annamites regard an umbrella as an emblem of respectability, and bought 312,039 from France and 24,935 from Hongkong, are to be found in this very interesting book, which costs only two-pence.

A serious motor accident occurred in the Shanghai Maloo on October 11th. Mr. E. S. Little's motor came into collision with a ricksha near Houan Road. The occupant of the ricksha, a woman, was thrown out and severely injured. She was taken to the Shantung Road Hospital and thence to a Charitable Institute for native women in Burkill Road, where her injuries were found to be very serious and she was detained.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on October 16th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Vice-President, Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Dr. McFarlane, Hon. Mr. F. J. Baddeley, Lieut.-Col. Joslin, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

ON TYPHOON RELIEF WORK.

The PRESIDENT—Before beginning the business of the Board I should like to mention that the Registrar-General and Mr. Fung Wachun have asked to be excused from this afternoon's meeting as they are engaged in the work of typhoon relief.

CEMETERY BYE-LAWS AND COST OF GRAVES.

Correspondence was read relative to an additional bye-law for cemeteries other than Chinese cemeteries.

Mr. HOOPER thought the fees were too high. He failed to see why Government officers should only pay 75 cents for grave space while other residents had to pay \$15.

The PRESIDENT—These bye-laws are only applicable to the Colonial Cemetery.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—All cemeteries other than Chinese are presumed to be Colonial. What is the difference between the Protestant and Parsee or Mohamedan cemeteries?

The PRESIDENT—Cemeteries other than the Protestant cemetery—the Parsee, Mohamedan, Roman Catholic, etc.—are, I understand, handed over to those communities and managed by them, and these bye-laws are not applicable to them.

Mr. HOOPER—In accordance with my minute, and in looking up the standing orders, I find no motion can be made for the proposition of a bye-law. The President merely states that the following bye-laws are to be bye-laws, so I don't suppose you are going to make any motion.

The PRESIDENT—If you want to make any remarks you must move that the Board suspend the standing orders.

Mr. HOOPER—There is nothing before the Board at the moment.

The PRESIDENT—There is the consideration of this bye-law.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—What is the bye-law? I have not seen the papers yet.

The SECRETARY read the bye-law, which set forth the prices to be charged for grave space.

The PRESIDENT—If members wish to discuss the bye-law, I move that the Board go into committee. Discussion then could be more complete.

Mr. HOOPER—It will be public?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

The Board then went into committee and

Mr. HOOPER asked whether there was any bye-law to-day governing the question with regard to fees as required by the Ordinance.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—There are Government notifications.

Mr. HOOPER—Are those Government notifications repealed by Ordinance 1 of 1903, section 16, which says that the Board has power to make and revoke bye-laws? To-day there is no scale of fees chargeable in respect of graves, which has been made by the Board by any bye-law in force.

The PRESIDENT—Is that so, Dr. Clark?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Yes, probably.

Hon. Mr. BADDELEY—Does this Ordinance repeal all the Sanitary bye-laws? It repeals previous ordinances but possibly regulations under those Ordinances stand good.

Mr. HOOPER—There are no bye-laws extant to-day which were made by this Board.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Can you refer us to any clause in this bill which does not repeal other notifications?

The SECRETARY said there was none.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Then I take it that this Act has repealed all previous notifications.

The PRESIDENT—I cannot say.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—That is a very important point, and the whole question rests on it.

The PRESIDENT—I take it that this Ordinance does not repeal Government notifications made under other Ordinances.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Can you refer us to anything?

The PRESIDENT—No, not just at present.

Mr. HOOPER—As a matter of fact does not it, by our making a new bye-law to-day, repeal any regulation made under another ordinance?

The PRESIDENT—Yes, because now the Cemeteries are under the Board.

Mr. HOOPER—At the passing of this Ordinance, and as part of it, there were bye-laws A and B referring to cemeteries which were simply divided into two clauses, A referring to other than Chinese and B referring to Chinese. I take it therefore that we are now dealing with clause A which will refer to any cemetery other than a Chinese. The first thing I would say with regard to the bye-law is that it is excessive to call upon residents in this Colony to pay \$15 for a grave twelve feet in area. If you want to buy a piece of land to put up a house the Government will sell it to you at 50 cents a foot; that would be \$6 for twelve feet. We are asked here to buy a piece of land which is necessary for the sanitation of the Colony, and they charge us \$15 for it; therefore I would move that in the bye-law made the price of this ground should be reduced to \$5.

The PRESIDENT—Does anybody second that?

Mr. HOOPER—There is no necessity for seconding at all according to the Standing Orders.

The PRESIDENT—But we must get the opinion of the Board.

Hon. Mr. BADDELEY—Does not the charge of \$15 cover everything?

Mr. HOOPER—No.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I don't quite agree with Mr. Hooper on that question. In England the price of graves is very much higher where the ground is not worth anything like the money. Then, a man only dies once in his life and can afford to pay for this luxury.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I must agree with Mr. Humphreys. I don't think \$15 is excessive as we only have to buy a grave once.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—What about the poor man; can he afford to pay \$15 for a grave?

Mr. HOOPER—Why was the price fixed at \$15?

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Because we were so rich in days gone by.

Mr. HOOPER—That is a good portion of a Portuguese salary per month.

The PRESIDENT—The Portuguese are Roman Catholics.

Mr. HOOPER—We are speaking of Roman Catholics.

The PRESIDENT—Of Protestants.

Mr. HOOPER—We are speaking of cemeteries other than Chinese.

The PRESIDENT—Read the bye-law through!

Mr. HOOPER (after reading)—Some words have been added in pencil which I did not see when circulated to me. The words added are "the Colonial cemetery" which I thought included the Catholic cemetery.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The Catholic cemetery is under the care of the Roman Catholic Bishop.

Mr. HOOPER—According to this Ordinance it is under our care.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Not as regards arrangements not provided for by the Ordinance.

Mr. HOOPER—Have we no jurisdiction?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Not beyond seeing that the graves are properly dug, etc.

Mr. HOOPER—And cannot we say what fees shall be charged?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—No.

Mr. HOOPER—I'd like that from you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT—If the Director of Public Works told you, then you can take it as correct. He is Vice-President.

Mr. HOOPER—But he has got no more say than me. He has got one say and one vote, but still, if you will back up his ruling and say that it is so—

The PRESIDENT—I have no reason to think that his statement is incorrect.

Mr. HOOPER—Will you say it is correct?

The PRESIDENT—No, I won't say it is correct.

Mr. HOOPER—Then we cannot get any further.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—The question is whether this Ordinance over-rides later regulations.

The PRESIDENT—We had better refer this to the Law Officer of the Crown.

Mr. HOOPER—Under those circumstances I will move that the matter be adjourned until we get his opinion.

The question then drafted for the opinion of the Law Officer of the Crown was as follows:—"Whether this Board has power to make bye-laws regulating the fees payable in respect of interments in all cemeteries in this Colony other than Chinese cemeteries, and whether this Board has also power to make any other bye-laws in connection with these cemeteries. Whether this Ordinance 1, as amended by Ordinances 20 and 23 of 1903, overrides all previous Government notifications, regulations and contracts in connection with the supervision and control of the various cemeteries in the Colony."

The Board resumed.

A QUESTION OF HEALTH.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the use of human excreta for manuring purposes.

The PRESIDENT minuted that the practice was both disgusting, dangerous as tending to produce typhoid, cholera, and worms, and, according to the scavenging and conservancy bye-laws, illegal. The gardeners might be allowed to use stable, cattle and pig manure, though even that was illegal, and the bye-law would have to be amended to meet that necessity.

The PRESIDENT—I have been directed to bring this matter before the Board. The

advisability of using human excreta as manure is a moot point even among professional men.

Certain authorities in England are strongly in favour of it, and say it is a rational and common sense method for its disposal. They say "Turn everything to the soil and enrich the soil."

Other authorities in England are strongly opposed to it. As one of the members stated in a minute, where doctors disagree it is difficult for non-professional men to form a judgment.

I think the practice as it already exists is a dangerous one to the health of the community, the quantity of vegetables grown in Kowloon must be very small compared with the amount which comes down for use

in the Colony from Macao and Canton. The method in England of getting rid of the excreta is not dangerous to the public health because it is laid down in trenches and does not come in contact with the leaves, but with the roots of vegetables.

The stuff is kept in sinks for sometime which admits of its practically becoming innocuous from Typhoid fever and Cholera. The proposal before the Board is to enforce the bye-laws as they already stand, or to allow the use of human excreta. To allow the bye-laws to exist as they already stand is to practically wink at its use.

Mr. HUMPHREYS contended that the use of it should be allowed as the great quantity of vegetables which were shipped here from Canton and Macao were reared under similar conditions.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT spoke in strong condemnation of allowing this method of raising vegetables to exist in the Colony.

Other members upheld or condemned the system of vegetable growing, and eventually consideration of the matter was deferred for a fortnight.

SCAVENGING AND CONSERVANCY CONTRACTOR'S PETITION.

The scavenging and conservancy contractor for Tsimchatsoi, Yaumati, Hunghom, Taikeksui and other places at Kowloon petitioned the Board to grant him some compensation for losses sustained in the recent typhoon. The petition set forth that he had lost altogether 20 odd dust and conservancy boats, and one large junk, the amount of his loss being over \$9,000.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted—I don't think the petitioner is telling the truth. The value of his boats, even if all were wrecked, could not be more than \$3,000. He had not 20 boats.

The petition is to be forwarded to the sub-committee of the Typhoon Relief Fund.

OVERCROWDING.

The report of the officer superintending overcrowding showed that for the month of September there had been \$9 prosecutions, and 260 persons had been ordered to vacate various houses.

R WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, after examination of four samples of water from the public mains, reported that the liquid was of excellent quality.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, October 15th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.
BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

STRUCK OUT.

The Chuen Hing firm sued Leung Tsun-tung and others to recover \$725.03 for goods sold and delivered by the plaintiffs to the Kung Sin firm.

Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) who appeared for the third defendant asked his Lordship to dismiss the action against him. The speaker had given notice to Mr. Harding, the plaintiff's solicitor as his Lordship suggested, and was informed that Mr. Harding was no longer instructed.

His Lordship—Mr. Harding's plaintiff all round?

Mr. Deacon—Yes, and he is not here.

His Lordship—Is anyone appearing for the other defendants?

Mr. Deacon—No. One is bankrupt and the other has not been served.

His Lordship—Well, I will strike the case out with costs, and they can fight it out among themselves.

CLAIM FOR BOARD.

Tsoi Chik nam claimed from John Herd and Yung Sing-kin the sum of \$1,000 being balance of price agreed for board and lodgings of the first defendant from September 28th, 1905, to September 28th, 1906.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) appeared for the plaintiff Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the first defendant, and Mr. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton and Hett) for the second defendant.

His Lordship said the first defendant could not be sued under the amendment in the writ.

Mr. Gardiner—I don't think I have released him by this amendment.

His Lordship—But I don't think you can sue him.

Mr. Gardiner—I will prove to your Lordship the agreement was that if the first defendant did not pay the second would.

Mr. Grist—He ought to sue on guarantee.

His Lordship—The only person you can sue on that writ is the second defendant. You cannot sue the first, as he has never promised to pay so far as I can see.

Mr. Gardiner—I am not pressing the case against the first defendant.

His Lordship—My own impression is that there must be judgment for the first defendant.

Mr. Gardiner—I don't mind.

His Lordship—Very well. Now, after eliminating the first, are you correct in your form of proceeding against the second?

Mr. Gardiner—I am suing on a promise made on September 28th, last year, at the time when Mr. Herd took up his quarters at the Stag Hotel.

His Lordship—Perhaps we had better go on with that.

Mr. Gardiner said Mr. Herd, the first defendant, was engaged by the Wong Yik Company under contract to come over here from British Columbia to superintend the construction of saw mills at Canton. He arrived over twelve months ago and had been here ever since without, he believed, receiving any remuneration, although under his agreement he was to be paid \$40 a month. The second defendant, Mr. Gardiner understood, had an interest in the Wong Yik Company.

Mr. Grist—I understand that is not so.

Mr. Gardiner—The Wong Yik Company used the Man Yik Tong, of which the second defendant is owner, as its headquarters. Mr. Herd has been staying at the Stag Hotel since his arrival on September 28th, 1905, and on the evening of that day the second defendant accompanied him to the hotel to engage his room.

His Lordship—Is the plaintiff the proprietor of the hotel?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes, my Lord.

Continuing, Mr. Gardiner said the arrangement was that \$100 should be paid for the room engaged, including board and lodgings. The No. 1 boy, who was present when the arrangement was made, said he did not know Mr. Herd, and would require a month's payment in advance. The second defendant said if the account was sent to the Man Yik Tong he would see that it was paid and he made an entry in the hotel book to the effect that he would hold himself liable. When Mr. Herd was asked for money he re-erred the hotel people to Man Yik Tong. The account was then submitted to that firm, and on October 30th the first month's board was paid. The second month's money was also paid, but after that, although the plaintiffs continually applied to the second defendant they had never received a payment.

When evidence in support of the plaintiff's case had concluded Mr. Hett said it was true that his client accompanied the first defendant to the Stag Hotel on his arrival in the Colony. The question was then raised as to payment and the second defendant told the hotel proprietor that if he would forward the accounts to him at the Man Yik Tong he would remit them to Canton and pay when he received the money. When the second defendant was pressed by the manager of the Stag Hotel for a third instalment he told the shroff that he was not going to accept any more responsibility, and to make himself doubly sure on that head, he wrote a letter to that effect to the proprietor of the Stag Hotel on the same day. The hotel book in which that letter was sent was signed by the manager of the hotel. Mr. Hett had paid the sum of \$37, the amount his client admitted owing, into Court.

After Mr. Lobo, manager of the hotel, got into the box and swore that he had received the letter which plaintiff denied receiving.

His Lordship asked—Do you think you can carry on much further, Mr. Gardiner?

Mr. Gardiner—I don't think I can, your Lordship, but as the arrangements were monthly, I submit that the second defendant is liable for a month's board.

His Lordship did not agree and gave judgment for the amount paid into Court with costs up to the time of payment in.

Tuesday, October 16th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE COST OF TREE PLANTING.

The case was continued in which Wong Wan and another sued Yu Wo-kai to recover the sum of \$964.55 for the planting of fir trees in the New Territory.

As before Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) appeared for plaintiffs, while Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the defendant.

In his opening statement for the defence Mr. Master said it was admitted that a verbal contract was entered into between the plaintiff and the firm of which defendant was a partner, but not with the defendant personally. The terms of this verbal contract were in dispute. It was given in evidence in the plaintiff's case that they were to receive eleven cash a fortnight for digging and planting. It was absurd on the face of it that plaintiffs and defendant should contract for such a price when the contract might amount to nothing more than digging holes and sowing seeds. His client admitted that a certain number of holes were dug by the plaintiffs, but contended that he had paid the price agreed upon, four cash per furlong.

Case adjourned.

Wednesday, October 17th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A JUNK COLLISION.

Yuk Seung sued Fung Lau for the recovery of \$224 in respect of damage to plaintiff's junk caused by the unskilful navigation of defendant's junk and expenses incurred by four days' detention in Canton.

Mr. E. J. Grist, for Mr. Otto King Sing, represented the plaintiff, and Mr. J. H. Gardiner, from the office of Mr. O. D. Thomson, appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Gardiner applied for an adjournment as other witnesses he wished to call had not arrived from Canton.

His Lordship—I cannot allow another adjournment. You have had six days to get the witnesses here, besides, any other evidence you call must be to discredit that of the man who was in charge of your junk.

Mr. Gardiner—I should like to explain.

His Lordship—Certainly, but I won't allow a further adjournment.

Mr. Gardiner—As your Lordship said, this man is very ignorant.

His Lordship—Yes, and I have written it down.

Mr. Gardiner—This man got mixed up in his story.

His Lordship—I am very sorry, Mr. Gardiner, but he goes and tells you one story and me another. You want to discredit your own witness?

Mr. Gardiner—The mistake made was possibly owing to his ignorance.

His Lordship—I know this; that his evidence tallied with that given by the other side. That, of course, does not suit you.

Mr. Gardiner—If your Lordship won't allow me to call further evidence I don't see how I can possibly succeed.

His Lordship—You admit your junk was to blame?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes, I admit that.

His Lordship—But you set up contributory negligence?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes.

His Lordship—Well, I say there was no contributory negligence at all. This junk of yours, as I said before, was like a Chinaman in the street—seemed to think the whole roadway belonged to it.

Mr. Gardiner—But there was a typhoon.

His Lordship—No, no. It is about the clearest case I have ever had. There will be judgment for the plaintiff less \$54 demurrage, and costs.

Thursday, October 18th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE BRIBERY CASE.

The Attorney-General informed His Lordship that the special jury would not be required until Tuesday, when the bribery cases would be opened. He asked his Lordship to extend Inspectors Ward and Gidley's bail until that date, and the Chief Justice consented.

A WORD TO THE JURORS.

His Lordship—Gentlemen of the Jury, I have one word to say before discharging you. The Registrar has received several applications for exemption on personal grounds. I want it to be distinctly understood that it is quite impossible for me to exempt jurymen from performing the duty which the law has cast upon them. There is no power in the law to exempt you, and it is the prisoners' right that they should have the full panel. The only case in which it is possible to exempt a jurymen is where the public interest comes in, and that is a case which will always be considered by the Law Officer of the Crown and myself. I would also say with regard to the friendly medical certificate that that must be expressed in terms that the jurymen is not capable of sitting on that day on the jury. It is quite impossible for me to recognise a medical certificate sent in to-day for exemption when the date of sitting as a jurymen will be next Tuesday. I have only got to remind you that if any person desires to be exempted, he casts upon somebody else the obligation of performing the duty for him.

NO INDICTMENT.

The Attorney-General informed His Lordship that no indictment had been filed in the case in which Boots Singh was charged with indecent assault, and prisoner was discharged.

THE PRISON WARDEN'S CASE.

The charge against George Street, a warden in Victoria Jail, of the manslaughter of a Chinese prisoner, will be heard to-day.

FOR INFORMATION OF THOSE CONCERNED.

His Lordship—Before the case is called on I should like to call the attention of the gentlemen who represent the Press, to the fact that a new ordinance has just come into force with regard to the law of giving evidence. It is most important that prisoners—Chinese prisoners especially—should be made aware of the terms of that Ordinance, and I am hoping that the Chinese newspapers will take the trouble to paraphrase and give in condensed form the terms of that ordinance. It is much too complicated, and involves certain liabilities which make it quite impossible for the Court to inform the prisoner straight off of the change of law. It is at the same time most important that all prisoners should know that they can give evidence in the witness box subject to the Crown cross-examining them, and I hope the magistrates will take such steps as may lead to prisoners being informed of this new law.

LARCENY AND FORGERY.

Tsang Fung was indicted on charges of stealing registered letters and forging post office receipts.

The Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office) prosecuted, and prisoner, who was undefended, pleaded not guilty.

The Jurors empanelled were:—Messrs. C. Schullenbach (foreman), O. R. Chunyut, W. Ironside, P. K. Knyvett, F. Hesse, L. G. Bird and J. Pearson.

The Attorney-General informed His Lordship and the jury that the prisoner was charged with stealing certain registered letters, and with forging the chop which he used in giving the receipts to the Post Office for such letters. Prisoner was employed in a shop called the Kwong Nam Poon, and in July or August four registered letters arrived at that firm. As the person to whom they were addressed could not be found, the letters were forwarded to the post restante. On September 19th prisoner went to the post restante and applied for these four letters. He was told that he must get someone to say he was the person he represented himself to be. He went away and returned to the Post Office on the following day with a man who represented himself to be a master tailor. Prisoner then chopped the receipt for the letters, and it was subsequently discovered, when the real owner called for the letters, that the chop was forged. Prisoner, who was found later at a shop in Queen's Road, Central, with the letters in his possession, was arrested, taken to the Police Station and formally charged. Before the Magistrate he admitted the charge but tried to excuse himself by putting the blame on some one else.

After hearing the evidence the jury found the prisoner guilty on both counts, and his Lordship sentenced him to five years' imprisonment on each count, the sentences to be concurrent.

When the verdict had been given prisoner told his Lordship not to be so hasty as he had something to say. The Chief Justice would not hear him, and ordered him to be removed. Tsang, however, refused to leave the dock. He had to be pulled out, and was dragged, shrieking and yelling, out of Court.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Lui Fat and Wong Sang-hing were arraigned on the charge of highway robbery.

The Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office), prosecuted, and prisoners were undefended.

A plea of not guilty was entered, and the following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. H. Backhouse, M. Jebson, R. H. Baxter, Tang Chea, C. R. Lenzmann, G. Preedsmann and R. Unsworth.

The Attorney-General stated that a man named Chan Wa, a fish dealer, was on September 15th—three days before the typhoon which subsequently destroyed the unfortunate man's fishing junk—on his way from Hongkong to Deep Water Bay with his foki. When they got half way down the hill from the reservoir at Wongneioheong, three men suddenly dashed out of some bushes, rushed upon them, knocked them down and gagged and

bound them. Fortunately they only found a few dollars where they expected to find a great many. The prisoners were identified by the foki as being two of the gang, and practically admitted before the magistrate and police that they were two of the band of men who by arrangement met there that morning to rob.

The jury on the evidence found the prisoners guilty, and his Lordship sentenced each of them to five years' imprisonment with hard labour.

ANOTHER ROBBERY.

Wong Choi and Liu Yau were charged with robbery at Chuknin village, near Kowloon city in the New Territory, on September 30th.

The Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, prosecuted, and prisoners, who were undefended, denied the charge.

The jury called was composed of Messrs. P. V. Sequeira, A. W. Snowman, R. A. P. Johrand, P. M. N. da Silva, L. D. Philpot, W. King and P. Lehrs.

The Attorney-General stated that after midnight on September 30th the inmates of a house at Chuknin village in the New Territory were awakened by a noise on the roof. They saw a man coming down into the courtyard, and two of the inmates of the house were able to identify the first prisoner as that man. The prisoner managed to open the front door of the house and let three other men in. The band lighted torches, terrorised the inmates and went thoroughly through the whole house, removing nearly \$400 worth of money, property, jewellery, clothing and even food. On the afternoon of the same day the second defendant was arrested, and from information he supplied No. 1 was arrested. He had some property on him which the inmates of the house declared was theirs, and if the jury believed that, they would come to the conclusion that he had on him some of the stolen property. Prisoners in their statements practically admitted the charges against them, and it was for the jury, after hearing the evidence, to come to the conclusion whether they were guilty or not.

At the conclusion of the evidence prisoners made their statements. The first said—"I only got a purse and two notes. That is all I have to say." The second said—"I was engaged as a coolie to go and carry things. Whilst carrying things I was arrested and accused."

The jury found the prisoners guilty, and his Lordship sentenced each of them to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour.

TROUBLESOME INDIAN SOLDIERS.

The native soldiers stationed in Kowloon are not doing their best to rehabilitate themselves in the good opinion of the public. Following the charges of misconduct brought against them some little time past, when they were alleged to be guilty of maltreating Chinese, two of them are now said to have assaulted a European living near Austin Road early on October 14th. The gentleman, who is very well known, was disturbed by hearing sounds at the rear of his house. Suspecting marauders, he went out and found two Indian soldiers on his premises. He ordered them away and when they refused he went to turn them out. Then they used the rifles which they were carrying. One of them attempted to strike him over the head but he guarded with his arm, which was badly hurt in consequence. What is being done in the matter is not known yet but it is not unlikely that the incident will be brought under the notice of the Governor.

A FORTUNATE ESCAPE.

A blind Chinese woman had a miraculous escape in Queen's Road on the 13th October. She was crossing the road and got in the front of an approaching car. Hearing the noise she quickened her pace to get off the track but the poor woman did not know that another car was coming in the opposite direction. The driver was of course unaware of the presence of the woman and could not pull up when he saw her suddenly appear in front. She was knocked down but was happily caught by the guard and carried in safety till the tram stopped, though the sound of the wheels passing over her basket and cakes led people to fear that a worse fate had happened her. She was much shaken but was uninjured.

VOLUNTEER CAMP.

(Daily Press, 15th October.)

The annual camp of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was opened at Stonecutters on Saturday under very satisfactory auspices. Shortly after three o'clock about 100 men had landed and were soon hard at work making their new quarters habitable and serviceable. Then they paraded for the first drill and experienced a foretaste of the strenuous nature of their military duties. By Sunday morning the number under canvas had been considerably augmented, and about 150 of all ranks attended divine service in the marshes.

The encampment occupies the site of former years, being situated on the rising ground on the east side of the island. Service men pitched the bell tents, which stand in five rows. On the level ground are the officers' quarters, staff sergeants and instructors' tents, sergeants' mess, hospital tent, canteen, and matched mess. Certainly a more ideal spot for the encampment could not be wished for. It is open to every breeze and at the same time it affords a view of considerable beauty and much interest.

The first night in camp was very satisfactory. The order showed a marked improvement on previous opening nights, and the Commandant was highly pleased with the conduct of the men. There were of course congratulations to the men who wore stripes for the first time and to those who were honoured with an additional one, but these were not of a boisterous nature. A few visitors attended, and some efforts at harmony followed dinner. The catering is again in the hands of Ying Kee and up till now has not given occasion for complaint.

The Volunteers yesterday morning joined the men of the garrison at divine service, which was conducted by the Rev. F. Searle, chaplain to the forces. He preached an interesting sermon, which was suggestive of thought, on the relation of morality and religion. Mr. Carruthers presided at the organ.

Yesterday being a guest day there were a good number of visitors present.

The weather has been delightful and the men are in good spirits. The hospital tent has not been used yet.

Major Pritchard commandant is in command and the officers present are Captain D. MacDonald, acting adjutant, captains Armstrong, Skinner, Wood (Essex Regiment) attached, and Craik, Lieut. Forsyth (medical officer in charge), Lieut. Nicholson, Northcote, Plummer, Kennett, Hayton, Gubby and Reynolds, with Sergt. Major Higby.

(Daily Press, October 16th.)

Those who believe that the Camp merely stands for a good time to the men who attend would be disabused of that opinion were they to see the Volunteers at work. Then they would know something of the strenuous life as it is lived at Stonecutters. Visitors are of course familiar with the lighter side of the "soldiering". They only see the men when they are enjoying their relaxation.

Yesterday for instance was a busy day. Brought to the guns at six o'clock in the morning, the Volunteers were put through their paces with a rigour that quickly discovered those who were not in form, and many breathed a sigh of relief when the considerate Commandant passed the word to "slack off" a bit and give the men an opportunity of learning the mechanism of the guns.

Breakfast over saw most returning to Hongkong for business, but those who remained were not allowed to be idle. They were occupied in learning gun laying. When a considerable number had returned in the afternoon, gun drill, quite as exacting as before, was engaged in, and those who were not for guard duty, sat down to dinner with keen appetites. A little recreation followed, and the majority sought that repose, which hard work and bracing air had sweetened. True, a few of the more rollicking spirits did not take things quite so quietly, but still the camp maintains its character for orderliness and general good conduct.

It should be added that the engineers are again doing excellent work by keeping the encampment illuminated by electric light.

(Daily Press, 17th October)

The hundred and fifty odd Volunteers under canvas are profiting by the drill which they are now undergoing. Physically they are better men and from the military point of view they certainly are more useful. Yesterday was another busy day. Beginning with the Maxim guns and fifteen pounders the Volunteers were soon put on their mettle, and most of them took advantage of the privilege of discarding their jackets and settled down to their duties in a workmanlike manner. That progress is being made is evident from the "not too bad" of the R.A. instructors, and before the camp is over the Corps ought to be in a position to acquit itself creditably in its varying duties.

On Monday night there was a very enjoyable impromptu concert, which was attended by the officers. With vocal contributions, humorous patter, and even a mesmeric exhibition the time passed all too rapidly and it was with regret that most heard the bugle sound for "lights out."

Last night the search light was at work, the Engineers being engaged manning the light with the R.E.

(Daily Press, October 18th.)

Less exacting in its demands on the strength of the individual and more interesting was the work which yesterday fell to the lot of the Volunteer on Stonecutters Island. The more technical nature of the duties of handling the guns filled the greater part of the programme of the day's proceedings. In the early morning both companies made fair practice with the maxim guns, the difficulties and problems set by the staff instructors affording excellent instruction, while good work was done on the fifteen pounders. Not till Saturday however will the Volunteers have an opportunity of using blank cartridge. Then will come the time for fire discipline, which is the real test of the "men of cannon."

An innovation appreciated by every man under canvas is the reading and recreation room provided by the Y.M.C.A. The Commandant readily gave permission and set apart a tent for such an institution. Opened on Tuesday night, it attracted many Volunteers, who were warm in their expressions of appreciation. Not only are papers, magazines, etc. to be found on the tables, but there is also a nice little library, while draughts and chess help to spend a quiet evening. Writing materials are also supplied. A more useful addition to the camp could hardly have been devised, and under the supervision of Mr. McPherson it should prove of considerable value. That gentleman also hopes to arrange for one or two lectures during the encampment.

While residents of Hongkong admired the searchlight flashed over Stonecutters and heard the booming of the big guns on Tuesday night the Volunteers were favoured with a closer view of the interesting operations. With his usual forethought the Commandant arranged for dinner being served half an hour earlier in order to give all an opportunity of watching the proceedings. And the experience was one to be treasured. The searchlight, operated from a point at the east side of the island, illuminated the greater part of the channel between the mainland and Stonecutters, showing the rocks into shadowy outlines and the serried sides of the opposite hills into the most fantastic shapes. Buoys, sampans and junks on the surface of the water stood out distinctly, invested by the white glow with an unusually picturesque appearance. The launch in the centre of the picture had the targets in tow at the end of a long cable. Having unwound the cable the launch gets up her full speed and setting the winding gear in operation the target is thus drawn through the water at the speed of the winch plus the speed of the vessel. The target flying through the water throws up a huge cloud of spray, which envelopes it completely, not only making the target more conspicuous but adding to the spectacular effect. A flash on the crest of the hill attracts the eye. A boom is heard, followed by the sound of an object hurtling through the air. Then the splash is seen just in front of the target or another shell may sink without the splash being noticed, indicating that the shot has gone over. That of course tells that the men on the gun have found their target. The spectacle was noteworthy and

everyone who watched it at close quarters realized something of the possible work of our garrison.

The official guest night, when H.E. the Governor will attend, has been fixed for Saturday.

(Daily Press, October 19th.)

Yesterday was another busy day at the camp. The most interesting practice in the handling of the guns is continued and the men certainly shape better at their work.

On Wednesday night the fire alarm sounded about eleven o'clock. Many of the Volunteers were asleep but all sprang from their beds and rushed to the square where they paraded in pyjamas and slippers, one brave youth stepping along briskly barefooted. The turnout was deemed satisfactory and the men were soon after dismissed.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM COWAN.

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Cowan, architect and surveyor, in charge of B. M. Office of Works in China, Japan and Corea, at the Shanghai General Hospital on October 7th. Mr. Cowan, who was fifty-one years of age, entered the public service in 1878, and held several important positions in the department in England. He went to Shanghai to take charge of the interests of H.B.M.'s Office of Works in China, Japan and Korea in 1896. His duties necessitated a good deal of travelling in the countries mentioned, and he arrived in Peking in time to be detained by the siege of 1900. Mr. Cowan was a Freemason and a kind-hearted and popular man. He had many friends throughout the Far East, who will deplore the loss of a sympathetic and genial acquaintance. The cause of death was dysentery with complications, and deceased had only been indisposed for about a week.

DOCK CARPENTERS ON STRIKE.

The labour difficulty at the Kowloon Dock is unchanged. It was expected that the carpenters would have resumed work by this time, but certain influence has apparently been brought to bear upon them with the result that they still remain on strike. A meeting of the employers concerned with shipbuilding was held last week with a view to arranging concerted action in dealing with the men. As the employees accepted the terms of the Chinese employers, to give an additional ten cents per day for two months, the desired arrangement was not effected. The Dock Company is in a different position, as the carpenters demand an extra twenty cents per diem. It is believed that the men have some organisation behind them, notwithstanding the fact that their old guild was broken up. The strike is now ended.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club was held at the Cricket Club Pavilion on Oct. 16. Mr. C. H. Gale was in the chair, other members present being Messrs. H. Percy Smith (secretary and treasurer), F. B. L. Bowley, W. H. Donald, A. G. M. Fletcher, J. Hastings, F. P. Hett, F. C. Barlow, L. G. Bird, A. Cruickshank, H. Broke, A. H. Ough, R. H. King, E. A. Katsch, W. O. Kohler, H. O. Reynolds, H. P. Tooker, and Major Watkins.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and balance sheet as presented, and this was agreed to. Commodore Williams was elected an hon. member of the Club, after which the following officers were elected by ballot:—Commodore, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., who is expected to return to the Colony early in December. Members of Committee: Major Watkins and Messrs. J. Hastings, H. P. Tooker, F. O. Reynolds, L. G. Bird and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. Members of Boat Committee: Messrs. F. C. Barlow, A. Cruickshank, C. H. Gale, F. A. Biden, H. Broke and F. W. Warre. Messrs. C. H. Benson and W. H. Darton were re-elected auditors, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Messrs. Beavis, Kohler, Gale, Warre and Major Watkins for special services to the Club.

THE "HANKOW" DISASTER.

Little remains to add to our story of the dreadful catastrophe which took place in the early hours of Sunday when so many helpless people perished in the disaster which overtook the old but still popular *Hankow*. Dreadful as the results were, it is terrible to contemplate what would have happened had the cables which held the vessel melted under the fierce heat of the flames and the burning ship been carried by the westerly breeze among the shipping in the harbour. With the fire float damaged by the typhoon, there would have been nothing available with which to follow her. That this danger was a real one was early brought to the notice of the band of workers engaged in fighting the flames, and Chief Inspector Baker very wisely directed one or two of the less powerful hose on the cables, and prevented them from melting. What the heat was like may be gauged from the fact that even the nozzles of the hose were too warm to be held in the hand. It was also fortunate that the wind changed at the time it did, as it enabled the firemen to cope more effectively with the fire. Great commendation is due to the engine drivers, Sergeants MacDonald and Lee, both men keeping their engines going at full pressure from about three o'clock till after nine. When one engine broke down Mr. Lane, assistant engineer, speedily set it going again.

One Indian constable has the credit of saving no fewer than ten lives, while Mr. J. S. Alves pluckily dived from the wharf and rescued several people from drowning.

Other bodies have been recovered, bringing the total up to 96, though it is certain that many more met their death during that awful stampede.

The two junks burned, one of which we previously mentioned, took fire while engaged in the work of rescue. When they saw the flames leaping above the deck of the *Hankow*, the masters of these two boats hastened to the assistance of their compatriots. One junk, after landing 100 passengers on the *Praya*, put back to the burning vessel for a second load, but when about 30 more had boarded her she lit up, and all had to jump overboard. The second junk rescued seven in her first trip but shared the same fate as the first when she put off the second time, and again the terror-stricken passengers had to go over the side.

The *Hankow*—whose hull is intact, merely her superstructure being destroyed—was towed out beyond Chinwan where the debris was dumped overboard. She was then towed to Aberdeen Dock for re-fitting.

Two more victims of the s.s. *Hankow* fire were recovered from the harbour on Oct. 16th making the total of known fatalities 98.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Oct. 15th.

MAILS LOST ON "HANKOW."

Hearing that my letter about suicide case, would be burnt on the s.s. *Hankow*, I herewith send copy.

SENSATIONAL SUICIDES.

I telegraphed you about Commodores Lin Chao-cheun and Kew Chi-fan committing suicide. From official sources I gather that the commander of the gunboat *Kwongching* had denounced them to the Viceroy on thirteen charges of "squeeze". In one case they were said to have defrauded the Government of over \$10,000 in connection with the building of six river boats; and other squeezes were said to have been managed in connection with the supply of coal to the fleet. They were arrested on the 10th and detained in the chief military Yamen. They took poison next day, and died on the morning of the 12th, after long agony. Foreign doctors failed to counteract the poison. It is now reported that several female members of their families have followed their example. Both were natives of Fuhkien, and both had European training. They were popular with foreign commanders. The servant who supplied the drug is under arrest.

THE FIRE.

The fire already briefly reported to you in my cablegram of yesterday's date started about 4 a.m. on Sunday in the Hing Kee compradore shop situated on the Canal just opposite to the British Police Station on the Shameen. It spread very rapidly to the adjoining houses. There was a strong north wind blowing at the time, which caused the flames to leap over the Canal to the Shameen. The Shameen fire engine turned out shortly after the fire broke out to protect the British Police Station. About fifteen houses were gutted and the damage is said to amount to about \$50,000. The large military station next to Yuen Hang and the Mutual Store were completely burnt down. It is reported that several lives were lost at the fire. Another fire broke out in the Tung Tak Tai Kai at about 8.30 p.m. last night. Fortunately there was no wind and it was put out after several houses were destroyed.

[From the "Canton Daily News."]

LOSS IN "HANKOW" FIRE.

A director of the arsenal was on the *Hankow* when she was burnt at Hongkong. He had \$300,000 in cheques and 12 parcels of drafts to deposit, which were all lost. They were put in the purser's office for safe keeping.

PIRATES TO BE EXECUTED.

Two of the pirates of the *Sainam* will be executed this week.

FAREWELL FOR SHUM.

The merchants of Hongkong intend to hold a big banquet and celebration for Viceroy Shum when he arrives there on his way to Shanghai.

ECHO OF CUSTOMS TROUBLE.

Chow Tung-shang, who figured conspicuously in the Customs trouble a short time ago has left China and gone to some foreign country. His family, which has been incarcerated since the trouble, have offered to pay a large sum of money if they are released. Viceroy Shum has replied that they must pay the money before they are released.

RAILWAY.

The board of directors of the Yuet Hau Co. have handed a petition to the Viceroy asking him to refuse the resignation of Tse Tow-chai. Tse became aware of the petition and notified the directors that his resignation had taken place virtually, but he would serve a short while longer to accommodate them.

CUSTOMS ACCOUNTS.

Viceroy Shum and the Provincial Treasurer are busily engaged in settling the Customs accounts. Shum has memorialized the throne taking the responsibility of the matter upon himself and is endeavoring to settle the accounts before his departure.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

Under the reformed official system, it is proposed to increase the official salaries from the Viceroy down, and relieve the magistrate of the burden of making supplies to officials passing through, which in many districts represents a heavy annual drain which has to be made up in other ways.

RAILWAY.

Chief Engineer Kwang is dissatisfied with his post and wishes to resign, giving as his reason that the "company is not fit for him."

WATERWORKS.

Viceroy Shum has ordered the Provincial Secretary to pay strict attention to the regulations of the waterworks and call to account any official who is detected in any wrong doing. He said that although the waterworks is both for government and commerce no irregularities of any sort by any party would be tolerated.

REVOLUTIONARY LEADER CAPTURED.

Wong Tin-po of the Masonic Order was captured on the 15th inst. Several years ago Wong's revolutionary scheme was discovered and a large number of his followers captured together with a large quantity of arms.

TAOTAI CHOW HOK-YUEN TO REMAIN.

Taotai Chow Hok-yuen who is the son of Viceroy Chow-fu according to custom should resign his duties here when his father arrives. Now, however, it is rumored that he will remain at this post.

TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR SHAMEEN.

We understand that on the British section of the Kowloon-Canton railway a telephone service for the Railway is in course of construction and

that it will most likely be extended to the Chinese section as soon as work in this line is started. So very often we have referred to the great inconvenience through the constant interruption of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph lines, that we think this a very good opportunity for some enterprising gentleman to take hold of and have a public telephone communication between this and Hongkong made an accomplished fact. The inconvenience to the business community and private individuals by the interruption of telegraphic communication, especially at a time when most urgently needed, is certainly a matter for serious consideration, and we doubt not that in Shameen alone a sufficient number of subscribers could be secured who will gladly assist such an enterprise on reasonable terms. If the Chinese authorities do not feel inclined to take the matter up, why cannot the Chamber of Commerce or the Shameen Municipal Council make a move? The influence of the British authority is strong enough to be able to push the matter through, should the Chinese object to it on unreasonable grounds.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Kulangsu Municipal Council held at the Board-room, Kulangsu, Amoy, on the 15th September 1906.

Present: Messrs. F. B. Marshall (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, I. Takatsuki, L. I. Thomas, W. H. Wallace, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. A letter is read from Mr. Lim Nee Kar, forwarding plan, requesting permission to close up a road on his property and construct another in place of it. The Secretary is instructed to refer Mr. Lim Nee Kar to their letter of the 7th April 1904, and inform him that as the matter concerns a right of way, they have not the authority to alter the decision then arrived at, but if he is prepared to make a substantial offer for the privilege he is seeking, the Council will call a meeting of the Ratepayers and submit the same.

3. The report of the Watch Committee on an inquiry held on the alleged misconduct of one of the Sikh Police is read.

4. It is decided that leave on half pay granted to the Police is to be allowed to count toward their period of engagement.

5. The Superintendent of Police reports the following arrests and summonses during the past fortnight:—Arrests.—Theft 2, and Committing a nuisance 2. Summonses.—Debt 2, Assault 1, Contempt of Court 1, Using threatening language 1, and Breach of Municipal Regulations 1.

6. It is decided that, until further notice meetings of the Council will take place at 5 p.m.

(Signed) FRED B. MARSHALL,
Chairman.

By Order
C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary.

Kulangsu, Amoy. 13th October 1906.

MR. "JOHN SMITH" OF CHINA.

The following very readable article by "Sincensis" appeared in the *Shanghai Mercury*:—

I have lately, by the help of Mr. Putnam Weale's "Reshaping of the Far East" and other books, tried to compile a Catechism of Anglo-Saxon Ideals for the use of Chinese students. The result, so far, is something like this:—

- 1.—What is the chief end of man?
The chief end of man is to glorify the British Empire.
- 2.—Do you believe in God?
Yes, when I go to Church.
- 3.—What do you believe in when you are not in Church?
I believe in interests—in what will pay.
- 4.—What is justification by faith?
To believe in everyone for himself.
- 5.—What is justification by works?
Put money in your pocket.
- 6.—What is Heaven?

Heaven means to be able to live in Bubbling Well Road and drive in victorias.

7.—What is Hell?

Hell means to be unsuccessful.

8.—What is a state of human perfectibility?

Sir Robert Hart's Custom Service in China.

9.—What is blasphemy?

To say that Sir Robert Hart is not a great man of genius.

10.—What is the most heinous sin?

To obstruct British trade.

11.—For what purpose did God create the 400 million Chinese?

For the British to trade upon.

12.—What form of prayer do you use when you pray?

We thank Thee, O Lord, that we are not as the wicked Russians and brutal Germans are, who want to partition China.

13.—Who is the great Apostle of the Anglo-Saxon Ideals in China.

Dr. Morrison, the *Times* Correspondent in Peking.

It may be a libel to say that the above is a true statement of Anglo Saxon ideals, but any one who will take the trouble to read Mr. Putnam Weale's book will not deny that the above is a fair representation of the Anglo-Saxon ideals of Mr. Putnam Weale and John Smith who reads Mr. Putnam Weale's books.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—It is a pleasure to me to be able to say how much your recent comments concerning the Japanese in Korea are appreciated up and down the Coast; and I think most people "in the know" understand the awkwardness of the situation. You have so far held the balance fairly, at a time when the most extreme statements are being made for and against.

I was till a few months ago quite as well disposed towards the Japanese and the Alliance as anyone, and have done my little bit to uphold both in every way. I had the same good reasons as yourself for mistrusting the statements of the newspaper in Korea.—[Ed.] and persistently refused to believe them. I could not but see, however, that there was a screw loose in the last Japanese Financial Statement published by authority, and after looking carefully into the matter, I consider those accounts were "cooked." Still, with every predilection favourable to Japan, I continued to keep my eyes open. I have personal knowledge up-to-date of four Korean ports, and I begin to believe that there is a big fire to cause all the smoke.

Japan is blown up with the praise that has been lavished on her. Much of it was truly deserved, but she has not the necessary experience to carry it through. Like the frog who envied the size of the ox, she is in a fair way to burst. This is the plain truth, and it is well for Japan as for us to comprehend it. Japan needs a good deal more ballast to keep her on an even keel, even in the present calm. If she should meet heavy weather in her present trim, she would, I fear, "turn turtle."

With much appreciation, believe me,

Yours very truly,

OBSERVER.

At sea, Oct. 9th.

FIRE AT SHANGHAI.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, October 17th said:—

The new cable building on the Bund here was discovered to be ablaze at mid-day.

The unfinished upper storeys suffered considerable damage and the opening of the premises will now be delayed for several months.

The losses are insured with Hongkong and Copenhagen companies.

SHANGHAI'S IMPORTANCE RECOGNISED.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, October 17th said:—

At the instance of Sir John Jordan, the Government agrees that the commercial attaché may spend a portion of each year henceforward at Shanghai.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 10th Oct., 1906.—Business reported since the 3rd inst., is as under:—

| | 1906. | 1905. |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Settlements ... | 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. |
| Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... | 5,000 | 1,335 |

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz. 11th October, 1905.

| | 1906. | 1905. |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| HANKOW TEA. ... | 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. |
| Settlements ... | 384,507 | 440,017 |
| Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... | 75,526 | 13,252 |
| Stock ... | 16,191 | 46,671 |

Arrivals... 476,224 499,940

| | 1906. | 1905. |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| KIUKIANG TEA. ... | 1-Chests. | 1-Chests. |
| Settlements ... | 158,018 | 177,880 |
| Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... | 10,652 | 9,779 |
| Stock ... | 2,527 | — |

Arrivals... 171,197 187,659

SILK.

CANTON, 6th October, 1906. Silk Market.—About the middle of the fortnight there was a simultaneous drop in dollar prices and exchange, which led to some chance business mostly in "Market cargo"; this weakness was only temporary and the market stiffened rapidly, being active with an upward tendency at the close. A marked improvement has been shown in the demand from America, resulting in a good business in Extra Extra A and B, 14/16, SR. Waste Market.—Foreign buyers advanced their limits, and some settlements took place at or near our quotations, according to the crops. An increased firmness is reported in the country, where values have risen a good deal in sympathy with raw silk and on account of the lack of stocks. Such excitement has never been seen since 1903, when in October we quoted:—Extra selected opened at St. 2/5½, Frs. 6.72½, Gets. 60½; Extra selected unopened at St. 2/2½, Frs. 6.07½, Gets. 55; Extra extra opened at St. 1/10½, Frs. 5.07½, Gets. 46; Extra extra unopened at St. 1/8½, Frs. 4.92½, Gets. 44½; Pierced cocoons at St. 1/11½, Frs. 5.42, Gets. 49; whilst the prices for raw silk were from Frs. 8.00 to Frs. 8.00 p-k under our quotations to-day. Stock of Silk in Canton: 1,200 bales.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG October 18th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----|---|------------|
| Malwa New | \$880 | to | — | per picul. |
| Malwa Old | \$940 | to | — | do. |
| Malwa Older | \$1000 | to | — | do. |
| Malwa Very Old | \$1040 | to | — | do. |
| Persian Fine Quality | \$700 | to | — | do. |
| Persian Extra Fine | \$760 | to | — | do. |
| Patna New | \$895 | to | — | per chest. |
| Patna Old | \$905 | to | — | do. |
| Benares New | \$845 | to | — | do. |
| Benares Old | \$825 | to | — | do. |

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 18th October, state that 16 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 52,100 tons of coal. Since October 2nd, 12 steamers have arrived with a total of 49,100 tons of coal.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Cardiff | \$15.00 | ex-ship, nominal. |
| Australian | \$9.50 | to \$9.75 ex-ship, quiet. |
| Yubari Lump | \$12.00 | nominal. |
| Milki Lump | \$12.00 | nominal. |
| Moji Lump | \$7.00 | to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady. |
| Moji unscreened | \$6.00 | to \$7.00 ex-ship, steady. |
| Akaike Lump | \$9.00 | to \$9.50 steady. |
| Bengal | \$9.00 | to \$9.50 nominal. |

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 19th October.—Small business market quiet. Stock about 1,200 bales.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Bombay | \$17.00 to \$20.00 | per picul. |
| Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca | 20.00 to 21.00 | " |
| Shanghai and Japanese | 23.00 to 24.00 | " |
| Tungchow and Ningpo | 23.00 to 24.00 | " |

Reported sales, 80 bags.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his report dated Hongkong, 19th October, 1906, says:—Under subsisting arrangements with the dealers the market remains practically closed, and there is again no business to report, and quotations are entirely nominal. No improvement is noticeable in the situation during the interval. Deliveries continue very slow, the off-take for shipment is small, country markets are irresponsive, and stocks are being heavily augmented by incessant arrivals of contract goods, the quantity of unsold yarn in first hands being estimated at no less than 100,000 bales. The disappearance of a large native dealer, alluded to in last report, has added a fourth collapse to the list of failures during the last two months. The liabilities in this case are computed at over \$75,000, and about 6,000 bales are thrown back on an already overstocked market. The steady rise in exchange is also playing a most important part in accentuating the situation, and should the upward tendency continue the loss in values to the dealers will be greatly increased by the time the market re-opens and business is resumed. The development during the next few weeks is fraught with the gravest consequences to the trade.

Sales during the interval are nil, arrivals amount to 15,916 bales, unsold stock estimated at 100,000, and sold but uncleared goods in native hands 65,000 bales.

Local Manufacture: Nothing doing

Japanese Yarn:—About 400 bales No. 20s, various tickets, are reported to have changed hands at from \$122 to \$130.

Raw Cotton:—Continues to move very slowly owing to the deadlock in the market for twist, and the majority of the late receipts have gone into godowns. The business of the interval includes sales of 300 bales Superfine Bengals at \$19 to \$20. There is nothing doing in China kinds. Quotations are \$18 to \$20 Indian, and \$20 to \$23 Chinese.

Exchange on India, after some fluctuations, closes to-day at Rs. 168½ for T.T and Rs. 169½ for Post. On Shanghai 72½ and on Japan 110½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 13th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 10,331 bales at a further decline of 1 to 3 taels, No. 10s forming the bulk of the settlements. Unsold stock 120,000 bales.

Japanese:—With a steady market sales of 4,000 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 85½ to 91 for No. 16s, and Tls. 99 to 100 for No. 20s.

Local:—Nothing doing.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 11th October, 1906, states:—No excuse of holidays or other interruptions can be put forward this week to account for the dullness of the market, it is simply latent, and defies all reasoning and calculations. There is no question of it, the country merchants are waiting on this market and filling their requirements on pretty much their terms. It was thought some time ago that the dealers here had formed a strong combination to keep prices up, but there is evidently a flaw somewhere, for standard makes of goods are being resold at "give away" prices, which naturally affects the whole market. But it is not Piece Goods alone that are suffering, the depression is spread over the whole of the import trade. The country is in a state of rottenness, brought about, primarily, by the unscrupulous tampering with the popular coinage of the country for the greed of gain by the provincial rulers. This has brought disaster to numberless small traders, who were able to obtain credit from the Banks while everything was working smoothly, but who had nothing to fall back on when those facilities were curtailed. Credit generally has become greatly impaired and trade has to be carried on more or less on a cash basis. Merchants cannot afford to anticipate a demand, or buy more than the exact quantity required at the moment, as returns have to be waited for before fresh purchases can be made. As regards Manchuria there is not much to be said as yet. It will require time to straighten things out there, and so far as one is able to judge from reports and rumours some real progress is being made. Arrangements are formulating to establish Customs Houses on both the Northern and Southern frontiers, the only obstacle at present being Japan's stipulation that the latter should be under the control of her own countrymen, and a certain percentage of the revenue to

go into her pocket to help defray the expense of preventing smuggling. Another noteworthy point is the determination to amalgamate the three existing mints at present in the Province and endeavour to make one uniform coinage, an example which, if successful, might be copied with advantage by China proper. The Manchester market is firmer and manufacturers are talking big again. They cannot be so very full of orders at present and yet are trying to bluff operators here into buying for shipment up to next May, a style of business we hope to see eliminated from this trade. The position of Cotton is not improving—except so far as this market is concerned—and the crop has evidently had another set back. The Liverpool quotation, for "spot" Mid American has declined from 6.14d. to 6.12d., but futures have been steadily on the rise both there and in New York. In the former market the price October-November at the close of last week was 5.68d. but two days ago it advanced to 5.82d., and this morning it comes 5.85d., while in New York the quotation for November has advanced to 10.81 cents for January. Egyptian Cotton has advanced slightly in Liverpool to 9½d. We omitted in our last to give the export figures for September: they were 19,000,000 yards of Plain Cotton to Hongkong and China and 1,200 bales Yarn to Shanghai only. We understand that Dyed and Printed are keeping up to the average of previous months this year. The yarn market has been rather more active and at the close the tendency is firmer. For new Crop Cotton forward contracts have been made at lower prices, but though the quality is very good it is now beginning to transpire that the production will not be quite so abundant as was anticipated and prices will advance. Business from first hands is still confined to the Auctions and prices on the whole have a slightly lower tendency. The future course of exchange has been declared this week to a certain extent by the firmer rates and more distant delivery at which Bankers are willing to book business. This attitude of a most important factor is not conducive to forward purchases of goods.

AMOI CUSTOMS RETURNS.

OCTOBER 13TH, 1906. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Customs House from 22nd September to 21st September, 4 p.m.—

IMPORTS.

| GOODS. | QUANTITY. |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Cotton, Raw, Indian | pls. 28 |
| " " Native | " 60 |
| " " Yarn | " 1,114 |
| Shirtings, Grey | pcs. 2,400 |
| T-Cloths | " 2,035 |
| Shirtings, White | " 2,016 |
| T. Red Shirtings | " 200 |
| Drills | " — |
| Shirtings Dyed, Brocades | " 233 |
| " Dyed | " 245 |
| Damasks | " — |
| Camlets | " 146 |
| Lasting | " 4 |
| Spanish Stripes | yds. 1,625 |
| Lustres, Figured | " — |
| Lead in pigs | pls. — |
| Tin in slabs | " — |
| Iron, Nail rod | " 6 |
| Quicksilver | " 17 |
| Iron, Old | " 280 |
| Ironwire | " 14 |
| Rice | " 10,518 |
| Opium, Patna | " — |
| " Benares | " 70 |
| " Persian | " 2 |
| " Malwa | " 1 |
| " Szechuan | " 16 |
| " Yunnan | " 75 |
| " Kiangsu | " — |
| Sesamum Seed | " 285 |
| Sapanwood | " 111 |
| Sandalwood | " 19 |
| Rattans | " 15 |
| Wheat | " 1,329 |
| Flour | " 8,404 |
| Beancake | " — |
| Beans and Peas | " 2,887 |
| Bicho de Mar | " 518 |
| Mats, Tea | pcs. 23,400 |
| Oil, Kerosene American | gal. — |
| " " Borneo in bulk | " — |
| " " Russian | " — |
| " " Sumatra | " — |
| " " Bulk | " — |
| Coal | ton. — |
| Tobacco Leaf | pls. 538 |
| Vermicelli | " — |

EXPORTS.

| Goods. | QUANTITY. |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Sugar, White | pls. 13 |
| " Brown | " — |
| " Candy | " 28 |
| Hemp Bags | pcs. — |
| " Sacking | 11,700 |
| Paper I Quality | pls. 544 |
| " II | " 61 |
| Tobacco, Prepared | " 143 |
| Kittysols (umbrellas) | pcs. — |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORT.

Per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, sailed on 16th October. For Marseilles:—281 bales raw silk, 200 bales waste silk, 7 cases silk piece goods, 25 packages human hair, 4 cases feathers, 77 packages tea, 9 cases porcelain, 39 cases ylang ylang oil, 8 cases hats, 2 cases silverware, 32 cases sundries. For Lyons:—355 bales raw silk. For London:—1 case printed matter, 1 bag yarn samples.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th October, 1906.—With the exception of a rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares, induced by hardening rates in London, we have nothing of any importance to report, the market continuing dull and uninteresting, with an inclination to weakness.

BANKS.—Responding to a steady rise in the London rate from £93. 10s. to £95. 10s. our market has ruled firm, and sales have been effected at the advanced rates of \$802½, \$805 and \$810, the market closing firm at \$810. Nationals remain unchanged and without business at \$47, but with probable buyers, while a few shares are obtainable at \$50.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of small sales of Cantons at \$320, we have nothing to report under this heading. The market remains steady without any shares on offer.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have been placed at the improved rate of \$330, and more shares are wanted. Chinas have found further buyers at \$95, and at time of closing are still in demand at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have ruled rather weaker during the week, owing to the disaster to the *Hankow*, the Company's earnings being affected by the withdrawal of the *Hankow* from the Canton run. At the time of writing, however, the market is firmer on account of the successful floating of the Company's steamers *Kinshan* and *Lung Shan*, and shares are enquired for in a small way without meeting with a ready response. Indos have ruled weaker, notwithstanding a rise of 10s. in the London rate. Shanghai quotes Tls. 52, and the local rate has fallen without business to \$73 sellers. The other stocks under this heading continue weak with sellers at quotations and no sales to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed during the week at \$150, and the market closes quiet at that rate. Luzons could be placed at \$22, but no shares are available.

MINING.—Raubs were placed during the week as high as \$10, but at time of writing they rule weaker with sellers at \$9½. Charbonnages remain unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue neglected at \$153, and we have no business to report. Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$93 with sales, and close with sellers. Shanghai Docks have been on offer during the week at Tls. 105/106 but no sales have been effected, and the market has been a weak one. Hongkew Wharves have fallen in Shanghai to Tls. 232½.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—With the exception of sales of Humphreys at \$11½, we have no business to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have found buyers during the week at \$19½ and \$19, the market closing quiet at the latter rate. Electrics and South China Morning Posts have changed hands at quotations, and more of the former are

enquired for. Watsons have been the medium of a fair business at \$12½, and \$12.85, the market closing quiet at the latter rate. Laundries have been placed at \$5½. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Alhambra | \$200 | \$120, buyers |
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & S'hai.. | \$125 | \$810, buyers |
| National B. of China | | London, £95.10 |
| A. Shares | £6 | \$50, sellers |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | 12s. 6d. | \$7 |
| China-Borneo Co..... | \$12 | \$10, sellers |
| China Light & P. Co. | \$10 | \$9½, sellers |
| China Provident | \$10 | \$9.40, sellers |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo..... | Tls. 50 | Tls. 76, buyers |
| Hongkong | \$10 | \$13, sellers |
| International | Tls. 75 | Tls. 67 |
| Laou Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 82 |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 327½ |
| Dairy Farm | \$6 | \$17 |
| Docks & Wharves— | | |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | \$98, sellers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$50 | \$153, sales & sel. |
| New Amoy Dock | \$6½ | \$17, sellers |
| Shanghai Dock and | Tls. 100 | Tls. 105, sellers |
| Eng. Co., Ltd | | |
| S'hai & H. Wharf... | Tls. 100 | Tls. 232½ |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo... | \$25 | \$22 |
| G. Island Cement | \$10 | \$19 |
| Hongkong & C. Gas... | £10 | \$175, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric... | \$10 | \$14½, buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways... | \$100 | \$215, buyers |
| Hongkong Hotel Co... | \$50 | \$115, sellers |
| Hongkong Ice Co..... | \$25 | \$236, sellers |
| Hongkong Rope Co... | \$10 | \$27, sellers |
| H'kong S. Waterboat | \$10 | \$7½ |
| Insurances— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$320, sales & sel. |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$95, sales & buy. |
| China Traders | \$25 | \$95, buyers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$330, sales & buy. |
| North China | £5 | Tls. 87½ |
| Union | \$100 | \$775, sellers |
| Yangtze | \$60 | \$170, sellers |
| Land and Buildings— | | |
| H'kong Land Invest. | \$100 | \$108, sellers |
| Humphreys' Estate | \$10 | \$111, sellers |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$39 |
| Shanghai Land | Tls. 50 | Tls. 95, x. n. issue |
| West Point Building | Tls. 25 | Tls. 55, n. issue |
| | \$50 | \$50, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$450, nominal |
| Raubs | 18-10 | \$9½, sellers |
| Philippine Co. | \$10 | \$5 |
| Refineries— | | |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$150, sellers |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$22 |
| Steamship Companies | | |
| China and Manila... | \$25 | \$23, sellers |
| Douglas Steamship | \$50 | \$42, sellers |
| H. Canton & M. ... | \$15 | \$26, sales |
| Indo-China S.N. Co. | £10 | \$73, sellers |
| Shell Transport Co | £1 | 29s. 6d., buyers |
| Star Ferry | \$10 | \$29, sellers |
| Do. New | \$5 | \$20, sellers |
| Shanghai & H. Dyeing | \$50 | nominal |
| South China M. Post. | \$25 | \$22 |
| Steam Laundry Co. ... | \$5 | \$5.75, sales & buy |
| Stores & Dispensaries | | |
| Campbell, M. & Co. | \$10 | \$32 |
| Powell & Co., Wm. | \$10 | \$8½, x. d., sellers |
| Watkins | \$10 | \$4, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. | \$10 | \$12½ |
| United Asbestos | \$4 | \$8, buyers |
| Do. Founders | \$10 | \$150 |

VERNON & MYTH Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending October 10th, 1906, states:—There has been little business done during the past week. The only feature of interest being a sharp fall in the price of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The latest London quotation is £93. 5s. 0d. The T. T. on London to-day is 3s. 0½d. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—No business reported. Docks, and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Shares are quoted at Tls. 241 for December. Shanghai Dock Shares have changed hands at Tls. 105.50 for cash. Sugars.—Nothing doing. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 940 for cash. Land.—No business reported. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton Shares are quoted at Tls. 77 for December, and Internationals at Tls. 69 for November. Shanghai Gas Shares changed hands at Tls. 125 for cash. Langkat Shares are quoted at Tls. 236 for October and Tls. 240 for December. Sumatras at Tls. 97.50 for December. Stores and Hotels.—Astor Shares have changed hands at \$28.50 for cash, and Colonies at Tls. 15 for cash. Shanghai Electrics at \$26.25 for cash.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, Oct. 19th.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 2/3½
Bank Bills, on demand 2/3½
Bank Bills, at 80 days' sight 2/3½
Bank Bills, at 90 days' sight 2/3½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight 2/3½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/3½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 285½
Credits 4 months' sight 289½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 232

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 55
Credits, 60 days' sight 56½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 168½
Bank, on demand 169½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 168½
Bank, on demand 169½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 72½
Private, 30 days' sight 73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 110½

ON MANILA.—

On demand 110½

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 3 p.m.

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand 136½

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand 1½ p.m.

ON SAIGON.—

On demand 1 p.m.

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand 60½

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$8.75

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per taal \$46.40

BAR SILVER, per oz. 32½

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Report of Oct. 11th, 1906, states:—Our Homeward Freight Market has not improved much since last writing, though there is a little more cargo coming forward for shipment; at the same time the tonnage on the various berths is ample for all requirements. Coastwise:—Things are slightly better on the coast in some directions, but not all. River freights are still in a very bad way owing to the severe competition, but now that a number of "tramps" are moving homewards, rates should be improved with autumn demand.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea G. 1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tls. 1.60 to \$1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS

- 13, Taiwan, British str., from Saigon.
- 14, South America, British str., from Kelung.
- 15, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 15, Chingtu, British str., from Japan.
- 15, Deucalion, British str., from Liverpool.
- 15, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 15, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 15, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 15, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
- 15, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 16, El Kantara, French str., from Antwerp.
- 16, Lisa, Swedish str., from Samarang.
- 16, Senegambia, German str., from Foochow.
- 16, Taiyuan, British str., from Melbourne.
- 16, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
- 16, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 16, Wik, German str., from Hongay.
- 16, Yruna, American str., from Amoy.
- 16, Shantung, British str., from Samarang.
- 17, Calchas, British str., from Shanghai.
- 17, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 17, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 17, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 17, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 17, Lydia, German str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Shawmut, American str., from Tacoma.
- 17, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 17, Zoroaster, Brit. str., from Christmas Isld.
- 18, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 18, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 18, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Delta, British str., from Bombay.
- 18, Hangchow, British str., from N'chwang.
- 18, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 18, Indrawadi, British str., from New York.
- 18, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 18, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from N'chwang.
- 18, Poba Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 18, Prince George, Norw. bkt., from Manila.
- 18, Sandakan, German str., from Singapore.
- 18, Segovia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 18, Sithonia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 18, Sungkiang, British str., from Ningpo.

October—

DEPARTURES

- 14, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Siam Danish str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Sourabaya.
- 15, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Flintshire, British str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Kuivsborg, German str., for Hongay.
- 15, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 15, M. Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
- 15, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
- 15, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Zingara, British str., for Christmas Isld.
- 16, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 16, Deucalion, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 16, Haoui, French str., for Haiphong.
- 16, Hauk, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 16, Hilary, German str., for Saigon.
- 16, Huichow, British str., for Tientsin.
- 16, Karin, Swedish str., for Tourane.
- 16, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 16, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 16, Masan Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 16, Oceanien, French str., for Europe.
- 16, Simongen, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 16, Tuscarora, British str., for S. Francisco.
- 17, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
- 17, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.
- 17, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 17, Quarte, German str., for Takao.
- 17, Senegambia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 17, South America, British str., for Manila.
- 17, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 18, Binh-Thuan, French str., for Bangkok.
- 18, El Kantara, French str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Flora, British cruiser, for practice.
- 18, Fri, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 18, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
- 18, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
- 18, Lydia, German str., for Canton.
- 18, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Shahjehan, British str., for Saigon.
- 18, Telemachus, British str., for Canton.
- 18, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Java.
- 18, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. R. Greog, Mr. and Mrs. Garnier, Messrs. R. J. Parkes, Cannan, J. de Laborde and de Laborie; from Singapore, Messrs. W. F. Collins, D. A. Kelder, Kolthoff, and Rev. J. Smeele; from Saigon, Mr. Dangeard, Comte de Flaux, Mr. Perisse and child, Miss Truchet, Rev. Joubert, Rev. Bozec and Mr. Pellegrini; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Dajon, Adderley, Wallas, Pandez, Mr. and Mrs. Feer, Lieut. Rosse, Messrs. Gayot, Poupon, Rev. Arnaud, Rev. Verdier, Rev. Arnoux, Rev. Riviere, Rev. Michelin, Rev. Caty, Rev. Gaspement, Messrs. Meyrick, Gould, Vergara, C. Robert, Sorton and Ant. Picca; from Singapore, Messrs. Max MacGrath, Baeston and T. J. Sherida; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. M. Fournier, anvaroon and Steenstra Tous-saint; from Port Said, Mrs. Victoria Positani Pauze; from Singapore, Miss Meaney; from Saigon, Mr. Banguet.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Messrs. Y. Yasin and B. Neus; from Shanghai, Messrs. W. Gregory, O. Kremer, H. Posar, Andrews, H. Campbell, Swenson, Griede and Otto Georgensen; for Saigon from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Heldlin, Messrs. Bargmann, Juto and Gambars; for Singapore from Kobe, Mrs. R. Hartman, Mrs. Coro Russ; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mr. Rama-Rao; from Shanghai, Mr. Benjamin; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Mrs. Fichot, Mr. Blum; from Kobe, Messrs. Origgi and Denis Mandez; from Shanghai, Col. Valette, Count Aurence, Messrs. Joseph Frig, Brotherin, P. Jean, Rorie, Hugen, Leroux, Charperdief, Moise MacKoma, Najalin, Arnold, Andres and Poulbanee.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Miss Boyle, Capt. Jostin, Miss Kock, Miss Blair, Lieut. Harmey, Mr. Slade, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Aitken, Lieut. Col. Sparkes, Major and Mrs. Kelsall, Lieut. Moore, Mrs. Mattock and 2 children, Miss A. Wilson, Miss Lamer, Mr. and Mrs. Hashin and Mr. Garlick; for Singapore, Major and Mrs. Barber and child; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Deane, Mr. and Mrs. Bassio and child; for London, Major and Mrs. McDonnell Moore and Miss Congreve.

Per *Shawmut*, from Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Penny, Miss Clare Cross, Miss Cassie Shaw Rice, Mr. Victor C. Maiden, Mrs. Florence M. Maiden and child, Miss Jessie E. Maiden, Master Victor G. Maiden, Mr. Ira Yaugg, Mr. W. P. Mayes; from San Francisco, Mr. D. S. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Miner; from Chicago, Miss Holland, Miss Benthien; from Manila, Miss Cochran, infant and nurse, Mr. Seligmann, Commander C. H. H. Harrington, Mr. S. M. McCrea, Hon. Deam C. Worcester, Mrs. D. J. Carr, Mrs. Gossman, Mr. and Mrs. Fauntleroy and two children, Mrs. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lawshe, Miss Lawshe, Mr. R. O. Walters, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Miller and two children and Mr. V. O. Marsh.

Per *Delta*, from London, &c., Rev. and Mrs. Taylor, Condr., Mrs. and Master Tyler, Mr. A. J. Hughes, Miss E. M. Conkey, Miss Thompson, Miss Poulter, Messrs. Moore, MacEwan, Darlington, Plumbie, Miller, Metcalfe, Portwar, Hamilton, Mrs. Kay, Mrs. Murray, Messrs. Lusmann, Ralston, Adamson, Negre, Fornaghi, Moos, Parker, Rev. Kumira, Col. Davies, Rev., Mrs. and Miss West and 3 children, Messrs. C. G. King, Khan and Mendes.

Per *Inaba Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. H. Dawsbury, E. Andrews, G. Urwin, G. Cockle, T. Wilson, C. Mellens, E. Bond, W. Pincott, Miss E. Brewerton and Miss M. Rowberry; for Shanghai, Mrs. Wavell and 4 children; for Tientsin, Mr. W. S. Pyper; for Kobe, Dr. K. Sakurane; for Yokohama, Mr. J. M. James, Miss Katorina Horzel, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bower and Master W. Bower.

Per *Delhi*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Dr. Stevenson; from Shanghai, Messrs. J. J. Staargand, A. Piercy, Mrs. L. Martin, Mr. Gulden, Capt. G. Parton, Messrs. S. M. Wong and Dobson; for Bombay from Yokohama, Mr. W. Farquharson; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Dr. and Mrs. Ed. Sireeker and Miss A. M. Langton; for London from Yokohama, Mr. H. Thomson; from Shanghai, Mr. H. C. Gibson, Miss Wheatley, Capt. McKechnie and Miss Hughes.

DEPARTED.

Per *Dakota*, for Seattle, &c., Messrs. Jacob Schulthess, D. L. Cobb, Richard Campbell, G. A. O'Reilly, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Morrow, Messrs. P. W. Tinan, F. M. Farmer, T. C. Kinney, Mrs. E. Rockenback, Miss Nanon Gray, Mr. W. J. Hutchison, Miss B. Flower Leonard, Miss M. Elizabeth Woodward, Mrs. D. Ralph Hagen, Messrs. R. and V. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. John Bloiser, Mr. and Miss Schmidt, Mrs. A. Bartlett, Miss Ethel Fuller, Miss Antornette Lorrone, Miss M. Pfiffinger, Mrs. C. Van Vorst, Miss L. Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Brearley, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hardman, Mrs. Frank Gordon, Mrs. E. Meyers, Mr. and Miss Connell, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Schriber, Mrs. Ione Higgins, Master Chas. Kendall, Mrs. Flora Heffner, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Richardson, Mrs. E. B. Hossmer, Mrs. C. B. Slater, Messrs. R. E. Burbank, C. L. Pepper, Miss Lucile Culver, Miss Mary Barnhart, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Palmer, Mrs. and Miss Mackenzie, Miss Sophia Mackenzie, Miss H. Diers, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Leithead, Mrs. A. O. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. B. Baldwin, Miss F. B. Whitlock, Miss Katie Smith, Miss Madeline Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Kendall, Miss Stella Smith, Mrs. A. M. Rousoup, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Shirley, Mrs. Kate Kelly, Miss Frances Kendall, Miss Irene Kelly, Messrs. M. J. Gaston, E. F. Dishman, Joe Amestoy, Domingo Lorrone, Miss Anna Meeker, Miss Leah Patterson, Miss Jennie Mackay, Miss C. Durkee, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Craig, Miss Winifred Melrose, Messrs. Richard Melrose, Don W. Carlton, Stanley Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Peck, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Brown, Mrs. Carrie Schumacker, Messrs. Percy Schumacker, C. Byrne, F. C. Schumacker, Mrs. N. F. Rice, Miss H. Elbel, Mr. N. E. Rice, Mrs. Richard Gundry, Mrs. John Clark, Miss O. W. Foster, Mrs. E. J. Ketting, Miss W. Throckmorton, Miss N. M. Skinner, Mrs. Colin Stewart, Miss Elsie Allen, Master Herbert Allen, Mrs. E. Pappleton, Miss Nell Bennett, Miss Marie Hall, Mrs. E. P. Ray, Mr. J. Baum, Gen. H. G. Otis, Miss Josephine Johnson, Miss Alice Gaston, Mrs. Della Weaver, Mrs. C. E. Stoner, Mrs. Geo. Montgomery, Miss Eleanor Barton, Mrs. E. F. Bogardus and son, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Covey, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Ball, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hurand, Mrs. and Miss Towers, Miss Helen Brant, Mrs. R. S. Tarbel, Mrs. A. P. West, Mrs. Margaret Omen, Mr. and Mrs. I. R. Smith, Mrs. Mary Bruce, Mrs. M. V. Bigger, Mr. and Mrs. Edm. Ullman, Messrs. P. V. Davies, L. D. Lewis, Mrs. Sothorn, Mrs. Wislizenus and 2 children, Miss A. Theron, Miss Florence Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Marquardt, Mr. and Mrs. Edw. P. Thompson, Mrs. F. Allen, Mrs. B. Richards, Mrs. C. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Irvine, Mrs. L. B. Anderson, Mrs. Vernon, Col. Mrs. and Miss Perley and Mrs. R. McDermid and child.

Per *Australien*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Andrei, V. O. Kohler, J. A. Barretto, F. H. Crossley, and Capt. A. A. Cox.

Per *Oceanien*, for Saigon, Mr. Perisse; for Singapore, Messrs. T. R. H. Garrett and A. Bibesco; for Bombay, Messrs. Nicolau Tolentino da Rosa, J. F. X. Gomes da Silva and Florentino da Silva; for Marseilles, Mr. Leovegildo Pelagio de Mendoncia Salles, Mrs. Virginia da Silva Oliveira Salles, Mrs. Rita Carlyle, Messrs. David Jose de Carvalho, Julio Cesar Ferro, Lourenco A. Sophia, Manuel Agudo and Cangue.

Per *Aki Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mr. T. Stafford, Miss Matterson, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Scott, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Henry Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Miss Gregson, Messrs. Charlton Thorne, S. Russell, Frank Kamrad, Chas. James, John Herd, J. C. McDermot, W. J. Long, John D. nvil, L. Hillson and G. Hara.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, for London, &c., Major and Mrs. Barber and child, Mr. and Mrs. Deane, Major and Mrs. McDonnell Moore, Miss Congreve, Mr. and Mrs. Bassio and child, and Mrs. Teresa Taylor.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HAY for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.